The Journal of Historical Review

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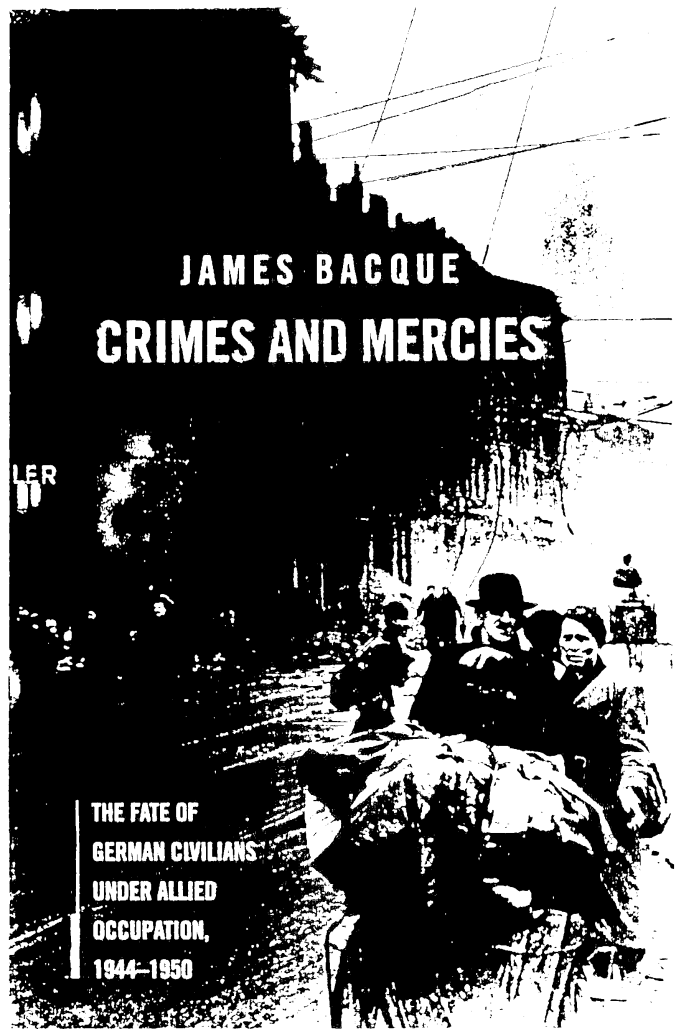
A Concealed Holocaust!

Crimes and Mercies

In this powerful new book, Canadian historian James Bacque presents detailed evidence, much of it newly uncovered, to show that some nine million Germans died as a result of Allied starvation and expulsion policies in the first five years after the Second World War — a total far greater than the long-accepted figures.

These deaths are still being concealed and denied, writes Bacque, especially by American and British authorities.

Crimes and Mercies — a handsome work, illustrated and well-referenced — is a devastating indictment of Allied, and especially American, occupation policy in defeated postwar Germany.



Some 15 million Germans fled or were brutally expelled in the greatest act of "ethnic cleansing" in history, a human catastrophe in which some two million were killed or otherwise perished. Then, under the notorious "Morgenthau Plan" and its successor policies, the Allies carried out a massive looting of Germany, and even prevented German civilians from growing sufficient food to feed themselves.

Bacque shows, for example, that General Eisenhower, in violation of the Geneva Convention, in May 1945 forbade German civilians to take food to prisoners starving to death in American camps. He threatened the death penalty for anyone feeding prisoners.

Bacque also describes the terrors of the postwar camps in Poland where children and other German civilians lost their lives.

Written with fervor, compassion and humanity, and making use of never-before cited records in Moscow archives, James Bacque exposes a little-known but important chapter of 20th century history. He builds upon the revelations of his startling 1989 study, *Other Losses,* which presented evidence to show that hundreds of thousands of German prisoners of war died as a result of cruel and illegal mistreatment by American, British and French authorities.

American historian Alfred M. de Zayas, author of *Nemesis at Potsdam* and *The German Expellees* (now titled *The Terrible Secret),* provides a valuable foreword.

Crimes and Mercies:

The Fate of German Civilians Under Allied Occupation, 1944-1950

by James Bacque

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German 'Microwave' Technology to Combat Typhus

High Frequency Delousing Facilities at Auschwitz

MARK WEBER

According to popular legend, Auschwitz was an extermination center organized to kill as many Jewish prisoners as possible with the greatest possible dispatch. In fact, though, the authorities responsible for Germany's wartime concentration camp network carried out extensive measures at Auschwitz, and other camps, to *save* inmates' lives. Though for decades widely known among specialized historians,[1] this remarkable story has been unknown to the wider public, and one extraordinary aspect of it has remained secret for decades.

In 1944, during the final year of the war in Europe, the Germans installed and operated state-of-the-art high frequency facilities at Auschwitz to kill disease-bearing lice and other pests. These expensive installations, installed in response to the high death rate wrought by disease, worked on the same principle as the familiar microwave appliances widely used today in households around the world. These Auschwitz facilities, designed to help save lives, proved very effective.

French researcher Jean-Claude Pressac briefly mentioned this remarkable disinfestation facility in his 1994 book about the crematories of Auschwitz.[2] Also, French revisionist scholar Robert Faurisson, in an essay published in 1995, cited the testimony of former Auschwitz inmate Marc Klein, first published in 1946, about "short wave delousing" at Auschwitz.[3]

But the first qualified and detailed look at this subject appeared in two lengthy articles published in 1998 issues of the German-language revisionist quarterly, *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung*, edited by Germar Rudolf. These articles were based primarily on documents buried in the voluminous collection of wartime German records that were seized by Soviet forces in 1945. For more than half a century these important historical records lay forgotten in Moscow's central archives. (The present article is based in large part on information in these two *Vierteljahreshefte* articles.)[4]

Typhus Danger

Before dealing directly with the high frequency delousing facilities, it is important to understand the general problem of disease, especially typhus, during the war, and the measures taken by the German authorities — particularly at Auschwitz — to combat the deadly scourges.

Typhus or "spotted fever" (German: *Fleckfieber*) is transmitted from one diseased person to another by lice infected with a micro-organism (*Rickettsia prowazeki*). Epidemic typhus flourishes among people in crowded living quarters, including ships, prisons, camps and ghettos, where poor sanitary conditions and bad hygiene prevail.

During the First World War (1914-1918), and even more in the years immediately following, some 25-30 million people in Poland, Ukraine, Russia and the Baltic suffered from typhus, or about 20-23 percent of the total population, of whom several million perished. "At the close of World War I," the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has noted, "the disease was prevalent in Poland, Russia and Rumania, where estimates of cases and deaths between 1919 and 1923 ran into millions. In World War II from these areas it spread again into western Europe and caused devastating epidemics among refugees and displaced persons, particularly in the German concentration camps."[5] So terrible was the scourge in Poland that the United States dispatched a US Army team to the country, where it carried out extensive efforts to combat typhus among the civilian population, 1919-1921.[6]

When war broke out in Europe in 1939, German medical and military leaders were mindful of the terrible impact of typhus during the earlier conflict, and acted accordingly. At the outset of the Second World War, the most advanced method used to kill typhus-carrying lice was "Zyklon B." This was the trade name of a pest control agent manufactured from the 1920s to the 1950s by the Degesch company of Frankfurt am Main. "Zyklon" is hydrocyanic or "Prussic" acid (HCN) absorbed in a porous material such as gypsum or diatomaceous earth, which is kept in tightly sealed cans until it is deployed by trained personnel. HCN's boiling point is 26 degrees C (79 F).

This commercially available pesticide was widely used before, during and after the Second World War by private companies, governmental agencies and military forces throughout Europe. It was frequently used by the German armed forces, including the SS, to delouse clothing and other effects, and to kill insects and rodents in buildings.

It is commonly believed that SS men used Zyklon to kill millions of Jews in gas chambers at Auschwitz and other German camps. But in fact SS men used Zyklon to help *prevent* camp inmates' deaths. They deployed it in very large quantities at Auschwitz and other wartime concentration camps by fumigating barracks, by delousing clothing in special gas chambers, and so forth, to destroy disease-bearing vermin.[7]

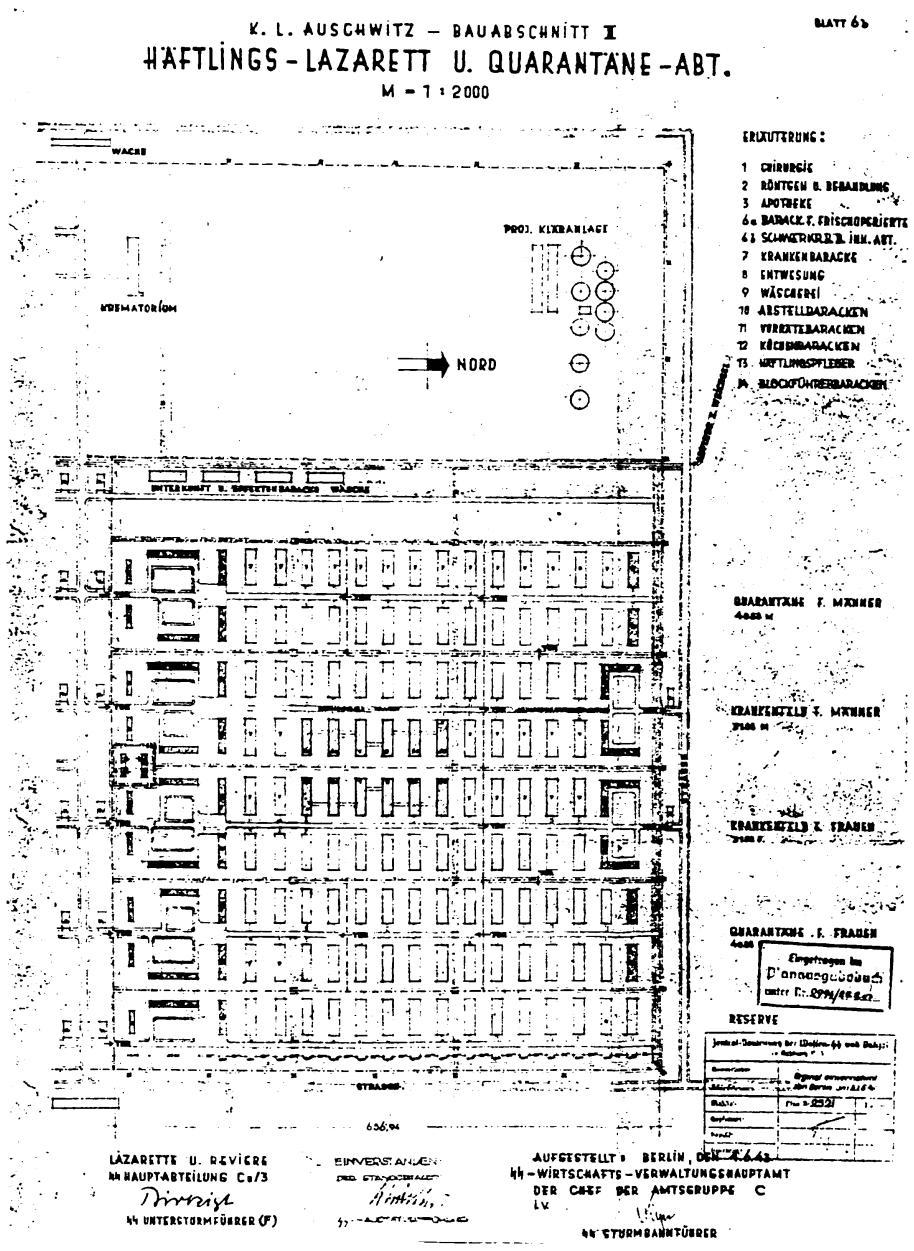
Combatting Typhus at Auschwitz

In each German concentration camp, including Auschwitz, a "garrison physician" *(Standortarzt)* was responsible, together with the other medical personnel, for implementing, coordinating and supervising hygiene and sanitary measures. At Auschwitz during this period, the "garrison physician," or chief medical officer, was SS *Hauptsturmführer* (captain) Dr. Eduard Wirths. By all accounts, including the surviving wartime documents, he was a dedicated, kindly, and good-natured man who capably and conscientiously carried out his demanding duties in the large camp.[8]

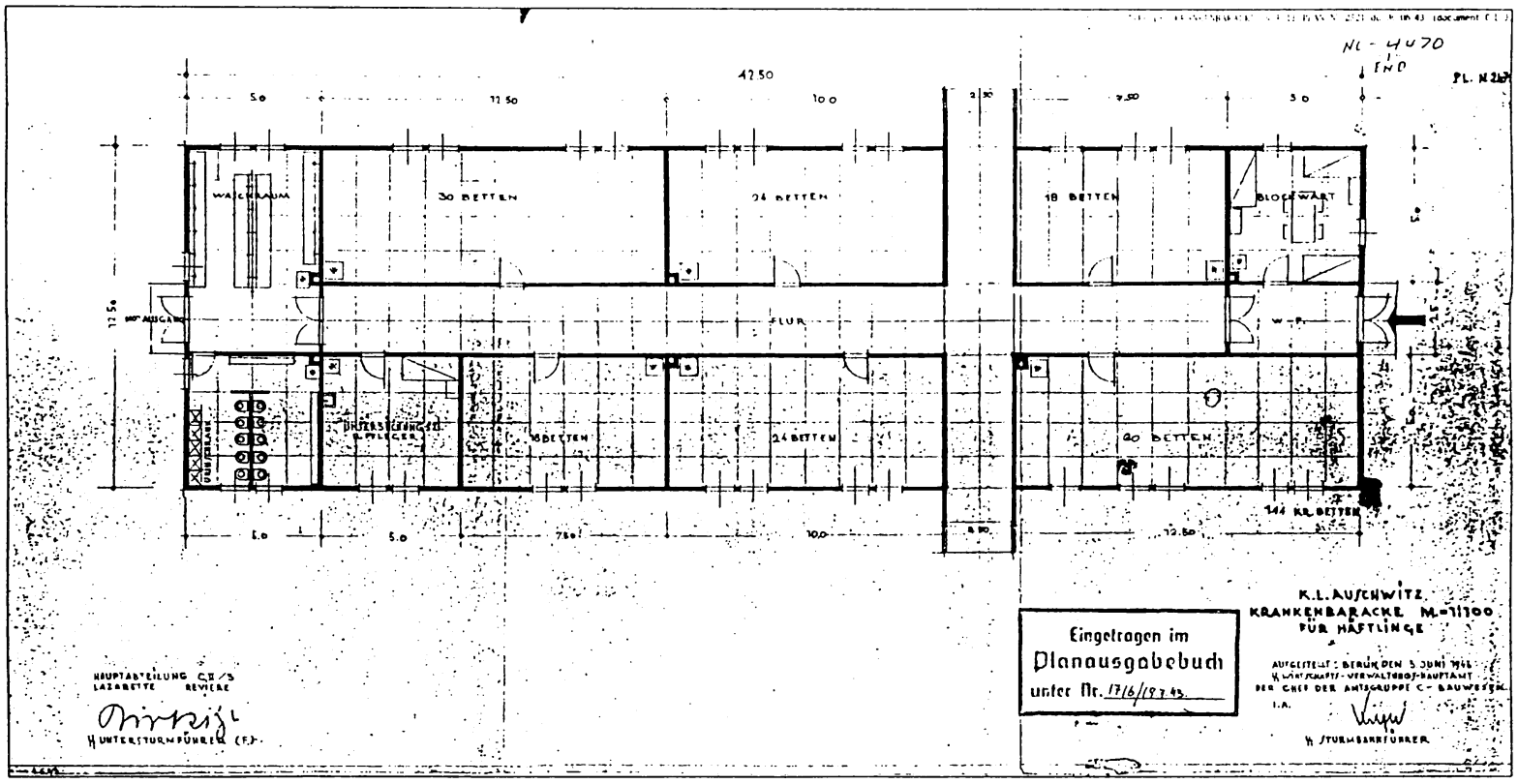
When typhus broke out in the Auschwitz camp for the first time in the summer of 1942, the German authorities there responded resolutely. In an effort to halt the disease, Commandant Rudolf Höss ordered a full-scale quarantine *(vollständige Lagersperre)* of the camp in July 1942. SS men and their families were not allowed to leave the camp area. As the epidemic continued to spread, Höss ordered further measures, including delousing actions with Zyklon, a prohibition against SS men and their families eating uncooked fruits and vegetables, disinfections of living quarters, obligatory vaccinations, and further restrictions on movement. Special "louse inspection" units were organized, and those who failed to observe the anti-lice measures were punished.[9]

On July 22, 1942, an official in the central Berlin office responsible for concentration camp administration (WVHA) radioed Auschwitz: "I hereby give permission for a five ton truck to go from Auschwitz to Dessau and back, in order to pick up gas [Zyklon] for gassing of the camp, to fight the epidemic that has broken out." This was just one of several such deliveries.[10]

But these measures proved inadequate. Even as the camp's hospital blocks were overcrowded with typhus victims, the disease continued to claim many lives. In early December 1942, SS camp physician Dr. Wirths spoke at a meeting that had been called to address the typhus crisis. Reflecting the seriousness of the occasion, the attendees included local and regional government officials, military officers, and important civilian figures.[11] Wirths reported optimistically that



Auschwitz-Birkenau was greatly enlarged in 1943 and 1944 to accommodate the arrival of ever more Jews. Accordingly, plans were made for more extensive hospital and quarantine facilities. This plan for a new "Prisoner hospital and quarantine section" in the Birkenau camp's "Mexiko" section was prepared in June 1943 by the WVHA agency in Berlin that administered the concentration camp system. It was quickly approved by the Auschwitz camp construction department. This "hospital and quarantine" section for 16,596 inmates included surgery, x-ray, delousing, and laundry facilities, as well as barracks for severely ill inmates. (Facsimile in: Jean-Claude Pressac, *Auschwitz* [1989], p. 512, and in *Auschwitz: 1270 to the Present*, by Debórah Dwork & Robert Jan van Pelt [New York: 1996], plate 19.)



Architectural diagram, June 1943, of an "Auschwitz camp barracks for sick inmates." The barracks has 144 beds, large wash and toilet rooms, and a room for medical staff. (Source: J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz*, 1989, p. 513.)

three large disinfestation, shower and sauna facilities can be put into operation right now, specifically two facilities for the inmates and one for SS troop members. The capacity of these facilities is some 3,000 to 4,000 persons per 24 hours.

The central WVHA office in Berlin-Oranienburg, which was responsible for the SS concentration camp system, sent a secret directive on December 28, 1942, to every concentration camp, including Auschwitz and Majdanek (Lublin). After sharply criticizing the high death rate, it ordered that

> camp physicians must use all means at their disposal to significantly reduce the death rate in the various camps.... The camp doctors must supervise more often than in the past the nutrition of the prisoners and, in cooperation with the administration, submit improvement recommendations to the camp commandants.... The camp doctors are to see to it that the working conditions at the various labor places are improved as much as possible.

The directive concluded: "The Reichsführer SS [Himmler] has ordered that the death rate absolutely must be reduced."[12]

Richard Glücks, head of the SS agency that supervised the concentration camps, informed the various camp commandants in January 1943: "As I have already pointed out, every means must be used to lower the death rate in the camp."[13]

In a letter of February 25, 1943, to the central WVHA office in Berlin-Oranienburg, which was responsible for the SS concentration camp system, Dr. Wirths summed up the situation:[14]

> As already reported, after the typhus epidemic in the Auschwitz camp had practically been suppressed in November and December, there followed a new rise in typhus cases among the Auschwitz inmates as well as among troops, brought by the newly arriving transports from the East. In spite of the counter-measures that were immediately taken, a complete suppression of typhus cases has still not been achieved.

Accordingly, the SS camp physician reported that there would be a three-week quarantine of the Auschwitz camp complex, including the main camp and Birkenau. During this period, he continued, two thorough delousing and disinfection operations would be carried out to completely eradicate lice, and thus eliminate the danger of new outbreaks of typhus.

In an April 1943 communication to the camp commandant, Dr. Wirths expressed grave concern about the sewer system in Birkenau, and concluded with a warning that unless appropriate measures are taken, the "great danger of epidemics would be inevitable."[15]

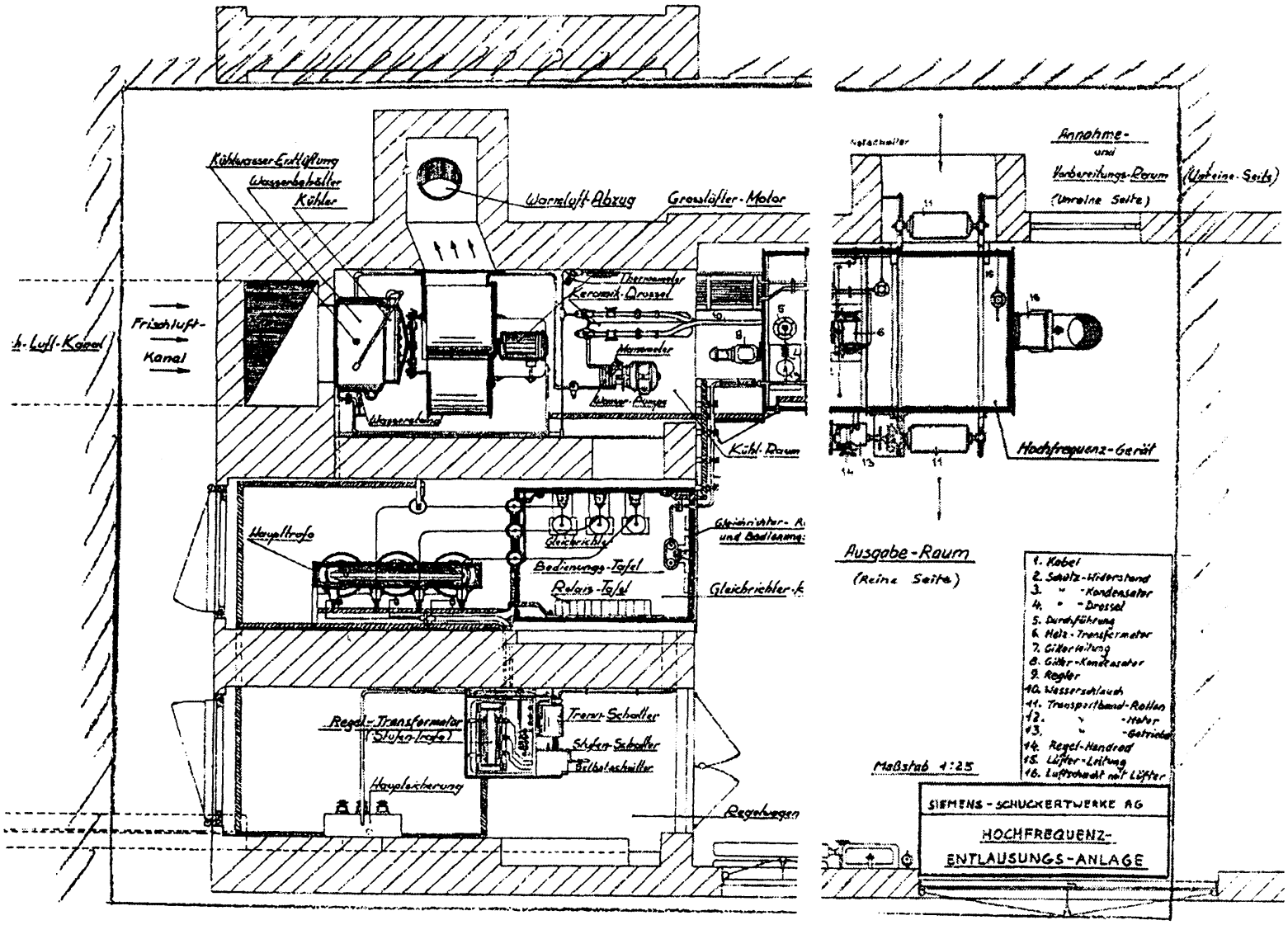


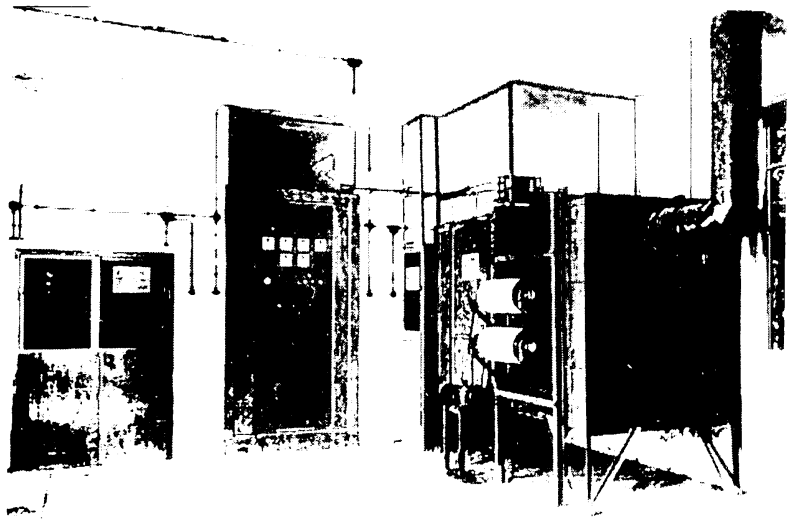
Diagram of a "high frequency disinfestation facility," developed and manufactured by the German firm of Siemens-Schuckert. One of these state-of-the-art facilities was installed at Auschwitz in 1944, where it helped save lives. (A portion of the diagram is missing from the middle of this reproduction.)

On May 7, 1943, the Auschwitz chief physician had a discussion with Dr. Heinz Kammler, head of the engineering and construction bureau of the central camp administration office (WVHA), and others, about inmate facilities at Auschwitz. Dr. Wirths warned that[16]

> ... maintaining the prisoners' health for the major tasks does not seem certain, due to the poor toilet conditions, an inadequate sewer system, a lack of hospital barracks and separate latrines for the sick, and the lack of washing, bathing and disinfestation facilities.

In his report on the meeting, Dr. Wirths noted that his superiors agreed with his assessment:

> The *Brigadeführer* [SS general Kammler] acknowledges the foremost urgency of these matters, and promises to do everything possible to ensure rectification of the shortcomings. He is somewhat surprised, however, that on the one hand, he receives reports from the responsible medical personnel that give a very favorable account of the sanitary and hygienic conditions, and on the other he immediately afterwards receives exactly opposite reports. The director of the ZBL [Auschwitz central con-



The stationary high frequency delousing facility at the Auschwitz concentration camp, shown in a 1944 photograph.

> struction office] is instructed to present proposals by May 15, 1943, for rectifying all problems under discussion.

This commitment by a high-level SS officer is all the more remarkable considering the growing shortages facing the German leadership due to the worsening military situation, which made it ever more difficult to procure supplies, manpower and money to insure minimal hygiene and sanitary standards.

In keeping with this, camp chief physician Dr. Wirths, in a May 28, 1943, letter to the Auschwitz central construction office (ZBL), asked for six circulating air delousing facilities, to be installed as quickly as possible. (These were in fact ordered the next day.) This request, Dr. Wirths explained, was being made "especially for the delousing and the disinfestation of the sick prisoners and their clothing ..."[17]

Because typhus continued to plague the camp complex, even more rigorous measures were imposed in January 1944. Simultaneously, all inmates were subjected to baths and disinfection, all clothes and bedding were sent to disinfection chambers, and all barracks were treated with Zyklon. This unprecedented campaign worked, and thereafter only sporadic cases of typhus were reported.[18]

A Polish inmate-physician, Dr. Alfred Fiderkiewicz, confirmed after the war that the camp administration and the dedicated SS physicians imposed strenuous and sometimes even radical measures to combat typhus in Birkenau, including large-scale Zyklon delousing of barracks and all clothing, improved diets for sick-bay inmates, and action by a special team to combat lice. As a result, the typhus plague was finally brought under control in January 1944, although tuberculosis was never completely eradicated and continued to claim many lives.[19]

High Frequency Delousing Facilities

In 1936, German technicians had noticed that high frequency radio waves produced by a large transmitter tube used to broadcast the Olympic Games from Berlin that year incidentally killed all nearby insects. Spurred by this, the Siemens-Schuckertwerke (Siemens-Schuckert works), together with the Reich Biology Institute in Dahlem, conducted tests on pest eradication using the high-frequency field of an electron tube.

After the problem of pest extermination once again became pointedly relevant following the outbreak of war in 1939, the Siemens-Schuckert company worked on developing a practical high frequency or "shortwave" *(Kurzwellen)* disinfestation facility. Collaborating with the firm on this project was a related company, the Siemens-Reiniger works in Erlangen, which produced medical instruments.

When this new technology was demonstrated to civilian and military authorities, the SS saw its applicability for large camps and quickly ordered several of the new facilities. (In contrast, the regular German army ordered one such installation, which apparently was never completed or made operational.)

The new high frequency facility was produced in both a mobile and a stationary model. The mobile version was designed to fit on a truck trailer. Operating it required access to a 380-volt electrical outlet or to a portable electrical generator.

At the end of June 1943, Dr. Willing of the construction-engineering bureau of the central WVHA agency reported with satisfaction on the efficiency of the new facility:[20]

> ... After a pass through the ultra-shortwave field, which takes eleven to twelve seconds, all vermin as well as bacteria, germs, brood and nits are killed, and, given non-stop operation, 13,000 to 15,000 pieces of clothing can be sterilized per day.

Auschwitz Installation and Operation

Although the first high frequency disinfestation facility was supposed to arrive at Auschwitz on May 15, 1943, actual delivery was delayed. In mid-June 1943 the Reich Ministry for Munitions and Armaments assigned top priority to the new high frequency facilities.

At a meeting on July 1, 1943, Dr. Wirths assured colleagues that the stationary high frequency delousing facility would be ready to begin operation

at Auschwitz in about eight weeks, and that a mobile facility was to arrive at the camp within the next three weeks. Installation of the mobile high frequency disinfestation unit — each step of which is thoroughly documented — was carried out between July 16, 1943 (commission) and October 21, 1943 (last requisition of materials).

The "*Osten III*" model stationary high frequency disinfestation facility — a modification of the "*Osten II*" mobile model — was set up in 1944 at the Auschwitz I main camp, in a building (BW 160) that originally was to house 19 Zyklon delousing chambers. It finally went into operation on June 30, 1944, and on July 29, 1944, the director of the SS Hygiene Institute tested its bacteria-killing ability.

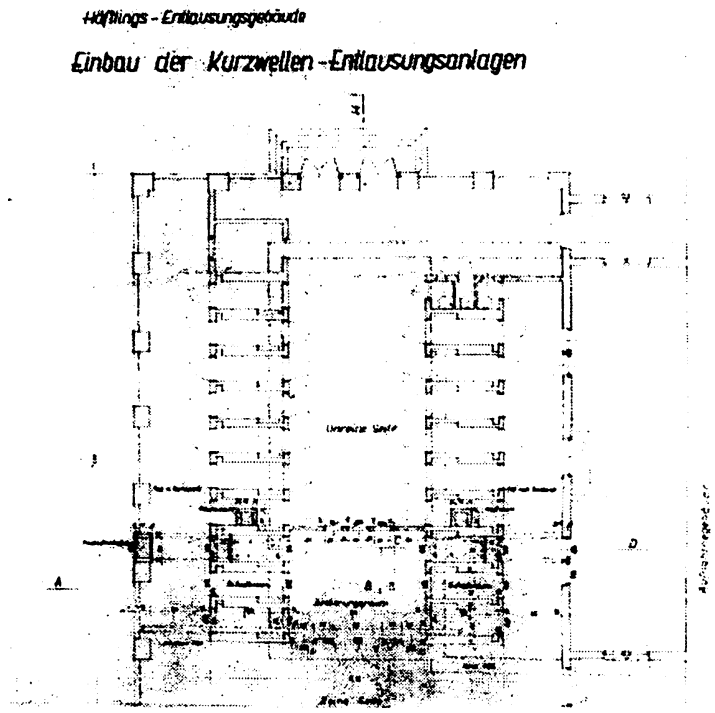
Greater Efficiency

Before being treated in the new high frequency facility, the louse-infested clothing was first dampened slightly with a water spray-gun. Then the clothing was bagged into bundles of 12x40 centimeters each and placed on conveyor belts that carried them through the high-frequency generator's capacitor field. Operating on the same principle as the modern microwave oven, the facility quickly killed all lice and other pests, as well as any typhus-bearing bacteria. The facility could treat 400 kilograms of clothing per hour.

Auschwitz's new high-frequency delousing facilities immediately proved to be far superior to all other delousing methods of the period, including the widely used method of hydrocyanic gassing with Zyklon B. Treatment of infected clothing with Zyklon required 70 to 75 minutes, and Topf delousing ovens required 60 to 80 minutes per treatment. Disinfestation in gassing autoclaves required a similarly lengthy amount of time. By contrast, the high frequency delousing facility required just seconds to treat infected clothing.

Furthermore, the new technique was much more thorough. It killed not only lice and their eggs (nits), but even the typhus micro-organisms. The new high frequency facility also took much less space, and was markedly less expensive. The cost of installing the "standard" disinfestation facilities in Auschwitz was 153,000 Reich marks, whereas the cost of installing the high frequency facilities there was 75,000 Reich marks or, according to another source, 98,000 Reich marks.

On August 10, 1944, the Auschwitz camp physician reported to the central WVHA office in Berlin-Oranienburg "on the effectiveness of the stationary shortwave delousing facility."[21] After taking time to train the required personnel, wrote Dr. Wirths, full operation of the facility began on July 5, 1944. The new facility functioned promptly and reliably, and was in nearly daily use. However, it was not operating at peak efficiency, in part because of power outages.

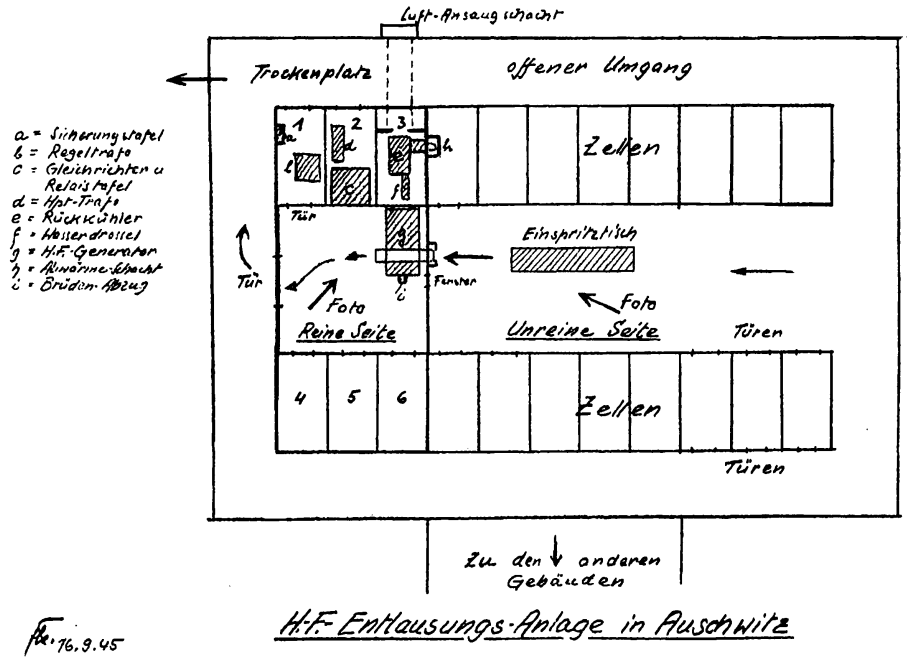


Diagram, titled "Prisoners' Delousing Building: Installation of the high frequency delousing facility," of the building at the Auschwitz main camp where the high frequency delousing facility was installed. This diagram was one of numerous German wartime documents that were only recently found in Moscow archives. As the diagram shows, the facility retained the division into "clean" and "unclean" sides that was also a feature of Zyklon B delousing facilities.

On daily average, he continued, the new facility processed 1,441 sets of underwear and matching garments, and 449 wool or quilt blankets. In other words, he went on, every 32 working days the facility processed the clothing of 46,122 persons, including their underwear and bedding. Under ideal conditions (with no power outages, for example), Wirths stressed, the facility's performance would be three times greater. Tests carried out in Auschwitz by the SS Hygiene Institute, Wirths continued, showed that treatment in the facility of three minutes per sack of clothing — that is, about 45 seconds for each individual item — completely destroyed all traces of staphylococcus, typhus and diphtheria.

In November 1944 the Auschwitz central construction office (ZBL) reported that "at the present time there is a stationary high microwave delousing facility in concentration camp I [Auschwitz] and a mobile one in concentration camp II [Birkenau]."

The efficiency of these "high tech" Auschwitz facilities, designed to help save prisoners' lives, contrasts sharply with the absurdly primitive technol-



Postwar diagram of a "High frequency facility in Auschwitz."

ogy of the camp's alleged homicidal gas chambers, supposedly meant to kill prisoners. As Holocaust historian Jean-Claude Pressac has written, the (supposed) homicidal gassing procedure at Auschwitz-Birkenau crematory facilities IV and V, for example, was cumbersome, "irrational and ridiculous."[22]

Auschwitz was not the only German concentration camp to receive one of the new "high tech" delousing facilities. In the fall of 1944, a stationary high frequency facility similar to the one at Auschwitz was installed at the Mauthausen camp (near Linz). At that same time, a mobile high frequency delousing facility arrived at Gusen, a satellite camp of Mauthausen, in response to an outbreak of typhus there. Efforts were also made to install a similar stationary facility in the Dachau concentration camp (near Munich), but apparently it was never put into operation.

Development of high frequency facilities continued even as Soviet and American troops were advancing into Germany. A certificate issued by the Reich Ministry for Armaments and War Production on February 22, 1945 — just eleven weeks before the end — noted that although the Siemens-Schuckert works had been evacuated from Breslau (because of the Soviet advance), a new testing and production facility was to be set up in central Germany. The document also stressed that development and production of high frequency devices by Siemens-Schuckert had the highest national priority, and deserved all possible assistance from Party, military and civil authorities.[23]

Summary

Records documenting the Auschwitz high frequency delousing facilities are only a small portion of the mass of German wartime files — 83,000 documents, according to one estimate — that have been uncovered from Russian archives after decades of neglect.

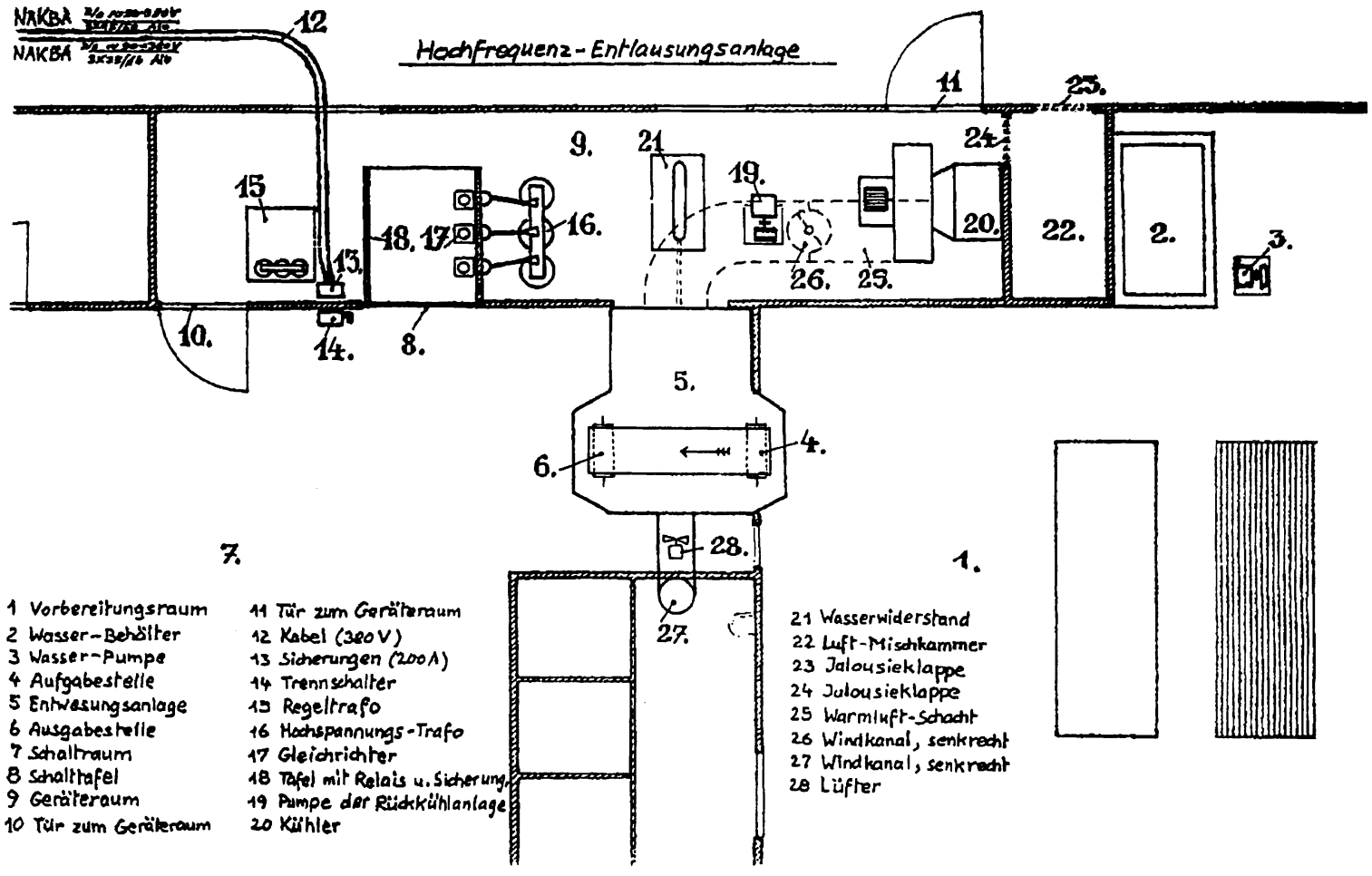
It is highly significant that among this enormous collection of secret German records, not a single one provides any evidence of mass killing, or even refers to a German wartime policy or program of "extermination." To the contrary, many of these documents — such as those cited in this article — further demonstrate the seriousness of the efforts by high-level government and SS authorities to maintain the health of inmates by combatting disease in the camps.

Deployment of "microwave" delousing facilities was just one of many conscientious measures taken by the SS authorities to *save* inmates' lives. Confirming this is a report on the high frequency installations, written in September 1945 (four months after the end of the conflict), apparently by a Siemens technician named Bay. The report points out:[24]

> We regretted that these facilities could not be used for their original application purpose, namely for delousing military equipment for the front, because they seemed more urgently needed by the camp personnel who requested them, because cases of typhus were constantly being observed among the camp inmates.

The discovery of long-hidden records on Germany's wartime high frequency delousing facilities suggests that other significant documents of the period may still await discovery, and that further important historical revelations about Auschwitz and the "Holocaust" issue are quite likely.

The revealing documents cited in this article, and many others like them, are routinely suppressed by those who uphold what Jewish educator Rabbi Michael Goldberg (in his 1996 book, *Why Should Jews Survive?*) aptly calls "the Holocaust cult." It is noteworthy that such documents have been found and brought to light not by "mainstream" historians, but rather by skeptical dissident (revisionist) scholars — an implicit indictment of the dereliction, if not corruption, of the historical "establishment."



Postwar diagram of a "high frequency delousing facility" in the Mauthausen concentration camp (near Linz, Austria).

Notes

1. For example, in his 1989 book, *Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers*, French anti-revisionist researcher Jean-Claude Pressac acknowledged the difficulty of reconciling actual German policies at Auschwitz with the camp's alleged function as an extermination facility. He wrote (p. 512):

   "There is *incompatibility* in the creation of a health camp a few hundred yards from four Krematorien [crematory facilities] where, according to official history, people were exterminated on a large scale ... It is obvious that KGL [camp] Birkenau cannot have had at one and the same time two opposing functions: health care and extermination. The plan for building a large hospital section in BA III ["Mexiko" section of Birkenau] thus shows that the Krematorien [facilities] were built purely for incineration, without any homicidal gassings, because the SS wanted to 'maintain' its concentration camp labor force."
2. Jean-Claude Pressac, *Die Krematorien von Auschwitz* (Munich: Piper, 1994), pp. 105-106, 113. Also cited in: R. Faurisson, "Antwort an Jean-Claude Pressac," in *Auschwitz: Nackte Fakten* (Berchem, Belgium: VHO, 1995), p. 63.
3. Robert Faurisson, "Antwort an Jean-Claude Pressac," in *Auschwitz: Nackte Fakten* (Berchem, Belgium: VHO, 1995), p. 63. Source cited by Faurisson: Marc Klein, "Observations et réflexions sur les camps de concentration nazis," *Etudes germaniques*, Nr. 3, 1946, p. 18.
4. The present essay is based on two articles about short wave (high frequency) delousing facilities at Auschwitz published in 1998 issues of the *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung* (*VffG*), Castle Hill Publisher, P.O. Box 118, Hastings, E. Sussex TN34 3ZQ, England — U.K.

   The first of these, "Kurzwellen-Entlausungsanlagen in Auschwitz," by Dr. Ing. Hans Jürgen Nowak, appeared in the June 1998 *VffG* (2. Jg, Heft 2), pp. 87-105. The second of these, "Die Kurzwellen-Entlausungsanlagen in Auschwitz, Teil 2," by Dipl. Ing. Hans Lamker, appeared in the December 1998 *VffG* (2. Jg, Heft 4), pp. 261-273.

   For more further information and complete source references, see the original articles.

   These articles can also be downloaded from the VHO web site: www.vho.org

   For more about Rudolf and his *VffG* quarterly, see "Important New German-Language Revisionist Quarterly," in the May-June 1998 *Journal*, pp. 26-27.
5. "Typhus," *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Chicago), 1957 edition, vol. 22, p. 648.
6. Alfred E. Cornebise, *Typhus and Doughboys: The American Polish Typhus Relief Expedition, 1919-1921*

(Univ. of Delaware Press, 1982). See also: Friedrich P. Berg, "Typhus and the Jews," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Winter 1988-89 (Vol. 8, No. 4), pp. 433-481.

7. J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers* (New York: B. Klarsfeld, 1989), pp. 15-21.
8. See also the information about Dr. Wirths, especially chapter 18, in: Robert Jay Lifton, *The Nazi Doctors* (New York: Basic Books, 1986).
9. Essay by Danuta Czech in: K. Smolen, ed., *From the History of KL Auschwitz* (Oswiecim State Museum: 1979), Vol. 2, pp. 28-36, 96-97. See also: Danuta Czech, comp., *Auschwitz Chronicle: 1939-1945* (London/New York: I.B. Tauris, 1990), p. 202.
10. Eugen Kogon, and others, *Nazi Mass Murder* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, 1994), p. 160; E. Kogon, and others, *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas* (Frankfurt: S. Fischer, 1986), p. 223. Also quoted in J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz* (1989), p. 188. Note similar documents in Raul Hilberg, ed., *Documents of Destruction* (1971), pp. 220-221, and in J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz* (1989), pp. 188, 557.
11. Document, dated December 4, 1942, cited in *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung* (*VffG*), June 1998, pp. 91 and 105, n. 29. Source cited: Moscow central archives, document No. 502-1-332-117/119. Also cited in: Y. Gutman & M. Berenbaum, eds., *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp* (1994), p. 226.
12. A. de Cocatrix, *Die Zahl der Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung* (Arolsen: International Tracing Service/ICRC, 1977), pp. 4-5; D. Czech, comp. *Auschwitz Chronicle: 1939-1945* (1990), p. 291; Nuremberg document PS-2171, Annex 2. *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression* (NC&A "red series," 1946-1948), Vol. 4, pp. 833-834. (This directive was quoted, as document E-168, at the main Nuremberg trial by SS defense attorney Dr. Horst Pelckmann on August 7, 1946: *Trial of the Major War Criminals Before the International Military Tribunal* (IMT "blue series"), Vol. 20, pp. 434-435. It was also cited by Pelckmann on August 26, 1946: IMT, vol. 21, p. 605.)
13. Nuremberg document NO-1523 (*Trials of War Criminals Before the Nuernberg Military Tribunals* [NMT "green series"], Vol. 5, pp. 372-373.)
14. Quoted by Carlo Mattogno in his essay, "Die 'Gasprüfer' von Auschwitz," *Vierteljahreshefte für freie Geschichtsforschung* (VHO, Belgium), March 1998 (2. Jg., Heft 1), p. 16 (and fn. 26). Source cited: Document 502-1-68, pp. 115-116, from the archives of the Center for the Custody of Historical Document Collection, Moscow.
15. Actually, the camp sewer system was, relatively speaking, an exemplary one for that period, and especially in that part of Europe.
16. Source cited (*VffG*, June 1998, pp. 92 and 105, n. 32): Moscow central archives document No. 502-1-332-219.
17. A facsimile of this document is in *VffG*, June 1998 (2. Jg, Heft 2), p. 91. Source cited (p. 103, n. 40, and, p. 105, n. 37): Moscow central archives document No. 502-1-332-28.

    French researcher Jean-Claude Pressac has written that in all there were 25 Zyklon disinfestation gas chambers at Auschwitz. J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers* (1989), p. 550.
18. Essay by D. Czech in: K. Smolen, ed., *From the History of KL Auschwitz* (Oswiecim: 1979), Vol. 2, pp. 28-36, 96-97.
19. A. Fiderkiewicz, "Typhus and delousing in the men's camp in Birkenau," in: K. Smolen, ed., *From the History of KL Auschwitz* (1979), Vol. 2, pp. 237-256.
20. This was the same basic technology employed in a procedure for sterilizing foods that "utilizes microwave energy and steam," which was developed in 1996 by the Göttingen Institute for Agricultural Technology.
21. A facsimile of this document is in *VffG*, June 1998 (2. Jg, Heft 2), p. 95. Also, the text is quoted in part on pp. 96-97. Source cited (p. 103, n. 9, and, p. 15, n. 58): Moscow central archives document No. 502-1-19-90.
22. J.-C. Pressac, *Auschwitz* (1989), pp. 384, 386. Also quoted in a review by M. Weber of this book, in *The Journal of Historical Review*, Summer 1990, p. 235.

    Of the (supposed) homicidal gassing procedure at Auschwitz-Birkenau crematory facilities (Kremas) IV and V, Pressac writes:

    "Although the operating sequence looks simple enough, it had become [?] irrational and ridiculous. It was irrational to have victims going from the central room to the gas chambers, [and] then being brought back, thus destroying the linear logic of the initial design. It was ridiculous to have an SS man in a gas mask balancing on his short ladder with a one kg can of Zyklon B in his left hand while he opened and then closed the 30 by 40 cm shutter through which he introduced the pellets with his right hand. This performance was to be repeated six times ... A few steps installed beneath each opening would have avoided all this performance."
23. A facsimile of this document is in *VffG*, June 1998 (2. Jg, Heft 2), p. 97.
24. *VffG*, December 1998 (2. Jg, Heft 4), pp. 269, 271.

Correction

In the March-April 1999 *Journal*, two lines giving addresses at which Pedro Varela can be contacted were deleted by mistake from the bottom of page 30. Varela can be reached by mail at Librería Europa, Aptdo. de Correos 9169, Barcelona 08080, Spain, and by e-mail at lib.europa@mx3.redestb.es.

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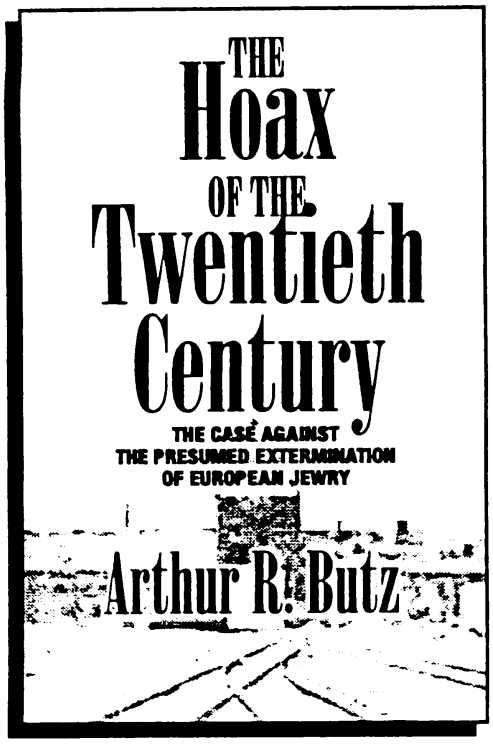

Yehuda Bauer and Prof. Moshe Davis agreed that there is a "recession in guilt feeling" over the Holocaust, encouraged by fresh arguments that the reported extermination of six million Jews during World War II never took place ... "You know, it's not difficult to fabricate history," Davis added.

— Chicago *Sun-Times,* Oct. 25, 1977

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Arthur R. Butz was born and raised in New York City.

He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1965 he received his doctorate in Control Sciences from the University of Minnesota. In 1966 he joined the faculty of Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois), where he is now Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Butz is the author of numerous technical papers. Since 1980 he has been a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of *The Journal of Historical Review,* published by the Institute for Historical Review.

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A Century Ago

The Boer War Remembered

MARK WEBER

The Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 was more than the first major military clash of the 20th century. Pitting as it did the might of the globe-girdling British Empire, backed by international finance, against a small pioneering nation of independent-minded farmers, ranchers and merchants in southern African who lived by the Bible and the rifle, its legacy continues to resonate today. The Boers' recourse to irregular warfare, and Britain's response in herding a hundred thousand women and children into concentration camps foreshadow the horrors of guerilla warfare and mass detention of innocents that have become emblematic of the 20th century.

The Dutch, Huguenot and German ancestors of the Boers first settled the Cape area of South Africa in 1652. After several attempts, Britain took control of it in 1814. Refusing to submit to foreign colonial rule, 10,000 Boers left the Cape area in the Great Trek of 1835-1842. The *trekkers* moved northwards, first to Natal and then to the interior highlands where they set up two independent republics, the Orange Free State and the South African (Transvaal) Republic. The Boers (Dutch: "farmers") worked hard to build a new life for themselves. But they also had to fight to keep their fledgling republics free of British encroachment and safe from native African attacks.

Their great leader was Paul Kruger, an imposing, passionate and deeply religious man. The bearded, patriarchal figure was beloved by his people, who affectionately referred to him as "Oom Paul" (Uncle Paul). Born into a relatively well-to-do Cape colony farming family in 1825, he took part as a boy in the Great Trek. He married at the age of 17, became a widower at 21, remarried twice, and fathered 16 children. With just a few months of schooling, his reading was confined almost entirely to the Bible. He was an avid hunter, an expert horseman, and an able swimmer and diver.

Over his lifetime, Kruger repeatedly proved his courage and resourcefulness in numerous pitched military engagements. When he was 14 he fought in his first battle, a commando raid against Matabele regiments, and also shot his first lion. While in his twenties he took part in two major battles against native black forces.

Four times he was elected President of the Transvaal republic. His courage, honesty and devotion helped greatly to sustain the morale of his people during the hard years of conflict. A contemporary observer described Kruger as a "natural orator; rugged in speech, lacking in measured phrase and in logical balance; but passionate and convincing in the unaffected pleading of his earnestness."[1]

Gold and Diamonds

The discovery of gold at Witwatersrand in the Transvaal in 1886 ended Boer seclusion, and brought a mortal threat to the young nation's dream of freedom from alien rule. Like a magnet, the land's rich gold deposits drew waves of foreign adventurers and speculators, whom the Boers called *"uitlanders"* ("outlanders"). By 1896 the population of Johannesburg had grown to more than a hundred thousand. Of the 50,000 white residents, only 6,205 were citizens.[2]

As often happens in history, important aspects of the Anglo-Boer conflict came to light only years after the fighting had ended. In a masterful 1979 study, *The Boer War*, British historian Thomas Pakenham revealed previously unknown details about the conspiracy of British colonial officials and Jewish financiers to plunge South Africa into war. The men who flocked to South Africa in search of wealth included Cecil Rhodes, the renowned English capitalist and imperial visionary, and a collection of ambitious Jews who, together with him, were to play a decisive role in fomenting the Boer war.

Barney Barnato, a dapper, vulgar fellow from London's East End (born Barnett Isaacs), was one of the first of many Jews who have played a major role in South African affairs. Through pluck and shrewd maneuvering, by 1887 he presided over an enor-

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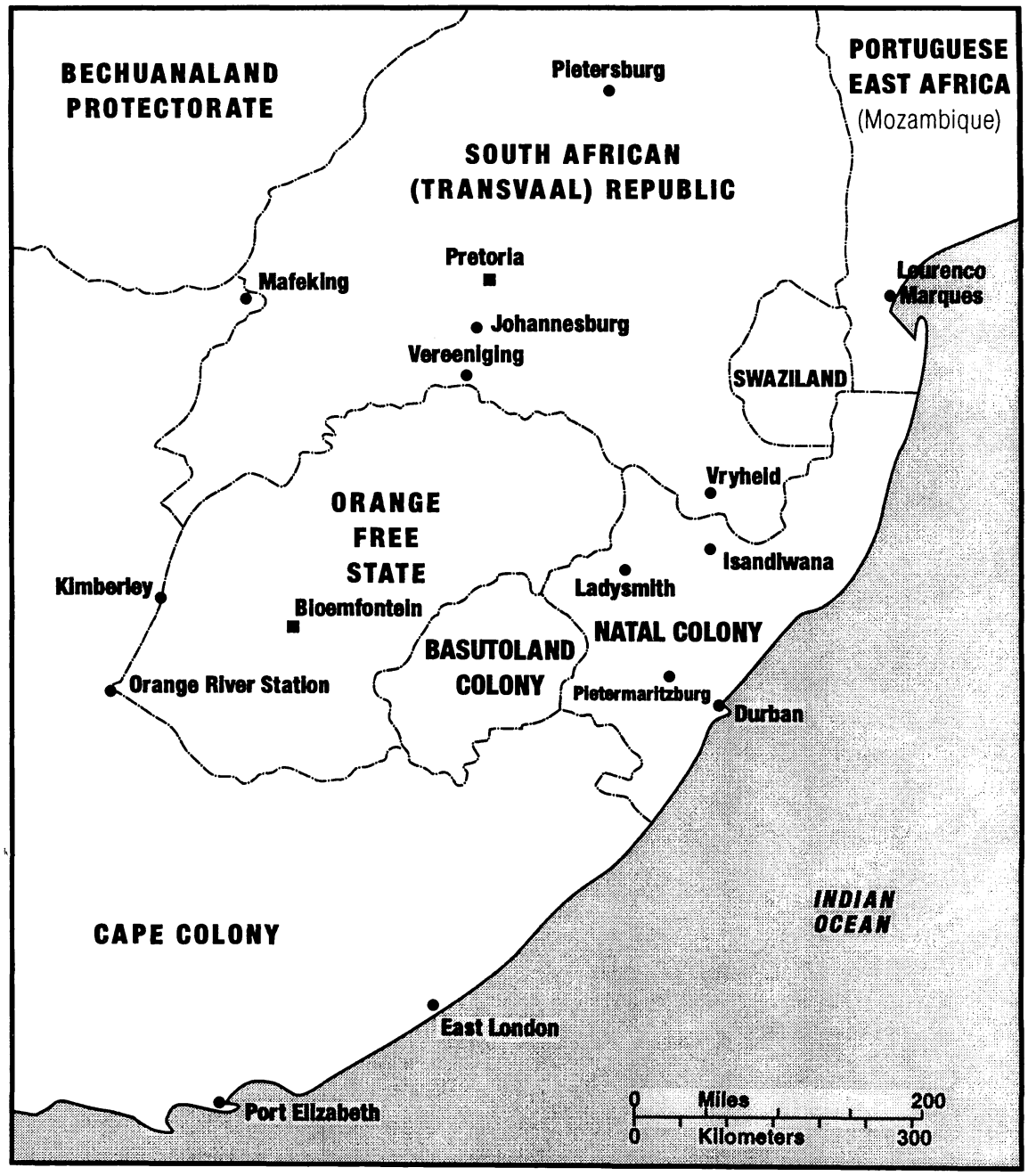
Mark Weber, director of the Institute for Historical Review, was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. He was educated at Portland State University, the University of Illinois (Chicago), the University of Munich, and Indiana University (Bloomington). He has been editor of *The Journal for Historical Review* since April 1992. This essay is a revision and expansion of an essay that was first published in the Fall 1980 *Journal*.

mous South African financial-business empire of diamonds and gold. In 1888 he joined with his chief rival, Cecil Rhodes, who was backed by the Rothschild family of European financiers, in running the De Beers empire, which controlled all South African diamond production, and thereby 90 percent of the world's diamond output, as well as a large share of the world's gold production.[3] (In the 20th century, the De Beers diamond cartel came under the control of a German-Jewish dynasty, the Oppenheimers, who also controlled its gold-mining twin, the Anglo-American Corporation. With its virtual world monopoly on diamond production and distribution, and grip on a large part of the world's gold production, the billionaire family has ruled a financial empire of unmatched global importance. It also controlled influential newspapers in South Africa. So great was the Oppenheimers' power and influence in South Africa that it rivaled that of the formal government.)[4]



In the 1890s the most powerful South African financial house was Wernher, Beit & Co., which was controlled and run by a Jewish speculator from Germany named Alfred Beit. Rhodes relied heavily on support from Beit, whose close ties to the Rothschilds and the Dresdner Bank made it possible for the ambitious Englishman to acquire and consolidate his great financial-business empire.[5]

As historian Pakenham has noted, the "secret allies" of Alfred Milner, the British High Commissioner for South Africa, were "the London 'gold-bugs' — especially the financiers of the largest of all the Rand mining houses, Wernher-Beit." Pakenham continued: "Alfred Beit was the giant — a giant who bestrode the world's gold market like a gnome. He was short, plump and bald, with large, pale, luminous eyes and a nervous way of tugging at his grey moustache."[6]

Beit and Lionel Phillips, a Jewish millionaire from England, together controlled H. Eckstein & Co., the largest South African mining syndicate. Of the six largest mining companies, four were controlled by Jews.[7]

By 1894, Beit and Phillips were conspiring behind the backs of Briton and Boer alike to "improve" the Transvaal *Volksraad* (parliament) with tens of thousands of pounds in bribe money. In one case, Beit and Phillips spent 25,000 pounds to arrange settlement of an important issue before the assembly.[8]

The Jameson Raid

On December 29, 1895, a band of 500 British adventurers forcibly tried to seize control of the Boer republics in an "unofficial" armed takeover. Rhodes, who was then also prime minister of the British-ruled Cape Colony, organized the venture, which Alfred Beit financed to the tune of 200,000 pounds. Phillips also joined the conspiracy. Accord-

Paul Kruger, Boer leader and President of the Transvaal Republic.

ing to their plan, raiders led by Sir Leander Starr Jameson, a close personal friend of Rhodes, would dash from neighboring British territory into Johannesburg to "defend" the British "outlanders" there who, by secret prior arrangement, would simultaneously seize control of the city in the name of the "oppressed" aliens, and proclaim themselves the new government of Transvaal. In a letter about the plan written four months before the raid, Rhodes confided to Beit: "Johannesburg is ready ... [this is] the big idea which makes England dominant in Africa, in fact gives England the African continent."[9]

Rhodes, Beit and Jameson counted on the secret backing in London of the new Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain (father of future Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain). Upon taking office in the administration of Prime Minister Salisbury, Chamberlain proudly proclaimed his arch-imperialist sentiments: "I believe in the British Empire, and I believe in the British race. I believe that the British race is the greatest of governing races that the world has ever seen." Clandestinely Chamberlain provided the conspirators with rifles, and made available to them a tract of land as a staging area for the attack.[10]

After 21 men lost their lives in the takeover attempt, Jameson and his fellow raiders were captured and put on trial. In Johannesburg, Transvaal authorities arrested Phillips for his part in organizing the raid. They found incriminating secret correspondence between him and co-conspirators Beit and Rhodes, which encouraged Phillips to confess his guilt. A Transvaal court leniently sentenced Jameson to 15 months imprisonment. Phillips was sentenced to death, but this was quickly commuted to a fine of 25,000 pounds. (Later, after returning to Britain, the financier was knighted for his services to the Empire, and during the First World War was given a high post in the Ministry of Munitions.)

Although it proved a fiasco, the Jameson raid convinced the Boers that the British were determined, even at the cost of human lives, to rob them of their hard-won freedom. The blood of those who died in the abortive raid also figuratively baptized the alliance of Jewish finance and British imperialism.[11]

Jan Christiann Smuts, the brilliant young Boer leader who would one day be Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, later reflected: "The Jameson Raid was the real declaration of war in the Great Anglo-Boer conflict ... And that is so in spite of the four years truce that followed ... [the] aggressors consolidated their alliance ... the defenders on the other hand silently and grimly prepared for the inevitable."[12]

Preparing for War

Undaunted by the Jameson Raid disaster, British High Commissioner Milner, with crucial "gold bug" backing, began secretly to foment a full-scale war to drag the Boer lands into the Empire. While publicly preparing to "negotiate" with President Kruger over the status of the *"uitlanders,"* Milner was secretly confiding his intention to "screw" the Boers. At their May-June 1899 meeting, he demanded of Kruger an "immediate voice" for the flood of foreigners who had poured into the Transvaal republic in recent years. As the talks inevitably broke down, Kruger angrily declared: "It is our country you want!"

Even as the "negotiations" were underway, Wernher, Beit & Co. was secretly financing an "outlander" army of 1,500, which eventually grew to 10,000. As Thomas Pakenham has noted: "The goldbugs, contrary to the accepted view of later historians, were thus active partners with Milner in the making of the war."[13]

Horatio Herbert Kitchener, the illustrious warlord who commanded British forces in South Africa,

1900-1902, later privately acknowledged that a major factor in the conflict was that the Boers were "afraid of getting into the hands of certain Jews who no doubt wield great influence in the country."[14]

For Britain's leaders, bringing the Boer republics under imperial rule seemed entirely logical and virtually pre-ordained. On the prevailing mind-set in London, historian Pakenham has written:[15]

> The independence of a Boer republic, bursting with gold and bristling with imported rifles, threatened Britain's status as a "paramount" power. British paramountcy (alias supremacy) was not a concept in international law. But most of the British thought it made practical sense ... Boer independence seemed worse than absurd; it was dangerous for world peace ... The solution seemed to be to wrap the whole of South Africa in the Union Jack, the make the whole country a British dominion ...

Most of Britain's leading newspapers pushed for war. This was especially true of the Jewish-owned or Jewish-controlled press, which included the influential conservative organ, *The Daily Telegraph*, owned by Lord Burnham (born Edward Levy), Oppenheim's *Daily News*, Marks' *Evening News*, and Steinkopf's *St. James Gazette*.[16]

Reflecting the official consensus in London, on August 26, 1899, Chamberlain delivered an uncompromising speech directed against the Boers, and two days later sent a threatening dispatch to Kruger. The British Colonial Secretary was, in effect, asking the Boers to surrender their sovereignty. In preparation for war against the republics, the Salisbury government resolved on September 8 to send an additional 10,000 troops to South Africa. When the Boer leaders learned a short time later that London was preparing a force of 47,000 men to invade the their lands, the two republics jointly began in earnest to ready their own troops and weapons for battle.

With war now imminent, and Boer patience now exhausted, Kruger and his government issued an ultimatum on October 9, 1899. Tantamount to a declaration of war, it demanded the withdrawal of British forces and the arbitration of all points of disagreement. Two days later, after Britain had let the ultimatum expire, the war was on.

A People's War

Boer men were citizen-soldiers. By law, all males in the two republics between the ages of 16 and 60 were eligible for war service. In the Transvaal, every male burgher was required to have a rifle and ammunition. At a military parade held in Pretoria, the Transvaal capital, on October 10, 1899, in honor

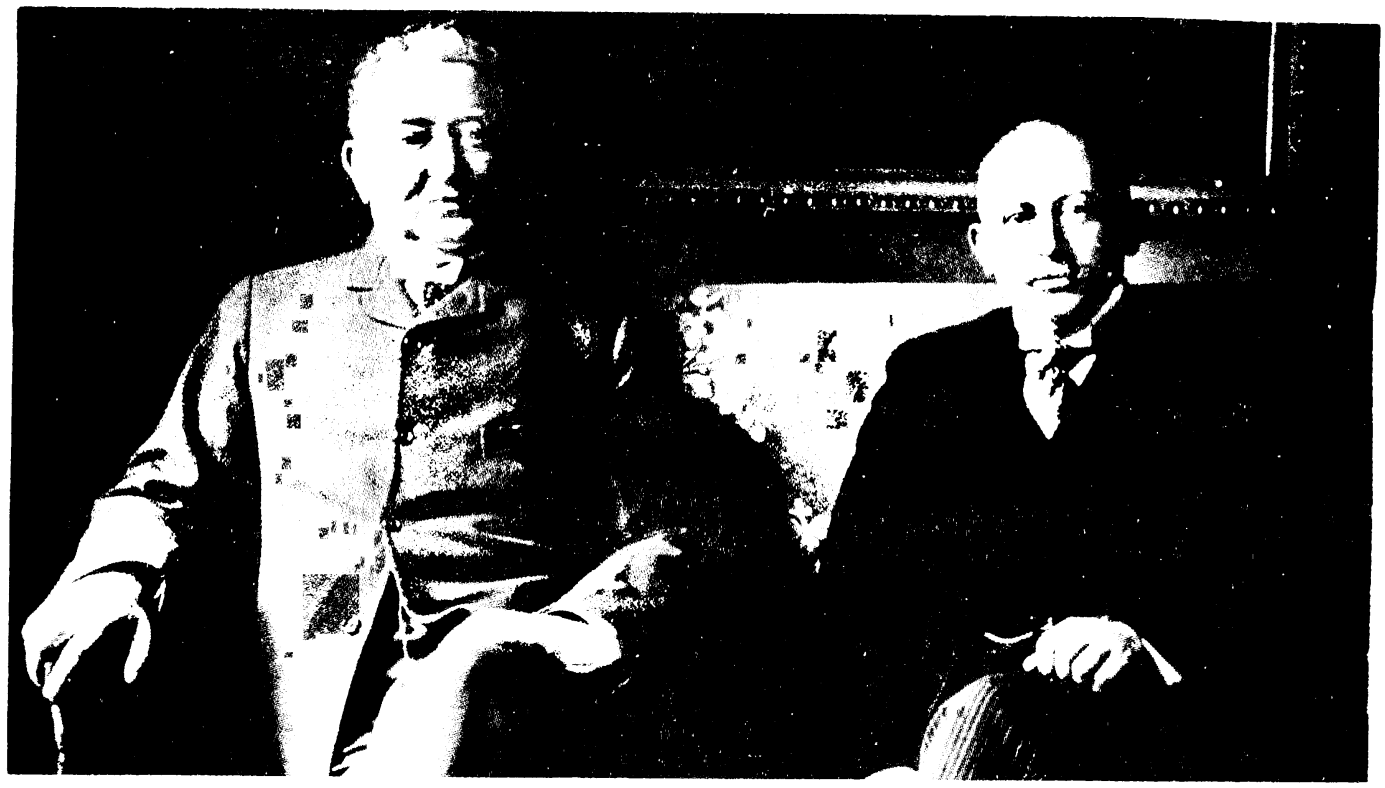
Barney Barnato

of Kruger's 74th birthday, ranchers from the *bushveld*, clerks and solicitors from the cities, and other battle-ready citizens rode or marched past their leader. Joining them were foreign volunteer fighters who had rallied to the Boer cause, including a thousand Dutchmen and Germans, and a contingent of a hundred Irishmen (including a youthful John MacBride, who was executed 17 years later for his role in the Dublin Easter Uprising).[17]

Even as they prepared to face the might of the world's foremost imperial power, the Boers were confident and determined. Although outnumbered, their morale was good. They were fighting for their land, their freedom and their way of life — and on familiar home territory. As British historian Phillip Knightley has written:[18]

> The Boer, neither completely civilian nor completely a soldier, alternating between tending his farm and fighting the British, lightly armed with an accurate repeating rifle, mobile, able to live for long periods on strips of dried meat and a little water, drawing on the hidden support of his countrymen, unafraid to flee when the battle was not in his favor, choosing his ground and his time for attack, was more than a match for any regular army, no matter what his strength.

Boers fighters were also chivalrous in combat. A few years after the end of the war, when passions



Cecil Rhodes (left) and Alfred Beit: the "gold-bugs."

had cooled somewhat, the London *Times*' history of the war conceded:[19]

> In the moment of their triumph the Boers behaved with the same unaffected kindheartedness ... which they displayed after most of their victories. Although exultant they were not insulting. They fetched water and blankets for the wounded and treated prisoners with every consideration.

Although the Boers scored some impressive initial battlefield victories, the numerically superior British forces soon gained the upper hand. But even the capture of their main towns and rail lines did not bring the Boers to capitulate. Boer "commandos," outnumbered about four to one but supported by the people, launched a guerilla campaign against the invaders. Striking without warning, they kept the enemy from totally subjugating the land and its people.

Mounted on horseback, the Boer "commando" fighter didn't look anything like a typical soldier. Usually with a long beard, he wore rough farming clothes and a wide-brimmed hat, and slung belts of bullets over both shoulders.

'Methods of Barbarism'

Lord Kitchener, the new British commander, adopted tactics to "clean up" a war that many in Britain had considered already won. In waging ruthless war against an entire people, he ordered his troops to destroy livestock and crops, burn down farms, and herd women and children into "camps of refuge." Reports about these grim internment centers, which were soon called concentration camps, shocked the western world.

Britain's new style of waging war was summarized in a report made in January 1902 by Jan Smuts, the 31-year-old Boer general (and future South African prime minister):

> Lord Kitchener has begun to carry out a policy in both [Boer] republics of unbelievable barbarism and gruesomeness which violates the most elementary principles of the international rules of war.
>
> Almost all farmsteads and villages in both republics have been burned down and destroyed. All crops have been destroyed. All livestock which has fallen into the hands of the enemy has been killed or slaughtered.
>
> The basic principle behind Lord Kitchener's tactics has been to win, not so much through direct operations against fighting commandos, but rather indirectly by bringing the pressure of war against defenseless women and children.
>
> ... This violation of every international law is really very characteristic of the nation which always plays the role of chosen judge over the customs and behavior of all other nations.

Shooting Prisoners

John Dillon, an Irish nationalist Member of Parliament, spoke out against the British policy of

Boer guerilla leader General Jan Smuts with his commando unit while operating against the British in the Cape Colony. Smuts later became prime minister of unified South Africa.

shooting Boer prisoners of war. On February 26, 1901, he made public a letter by a British officer in the field:

> The orders in this district from Lord Kitchener are to burn and destroy all provisions, forage, etc., and seize cattle, horses, and stock of all sorts wherever found, and to leave no food in the houses of the inhabitants. And the word has been passed round privately that no prisoners are to be taken. That is, all the men found fighting are to be shot. This order was given to me personally by a general, one of the highest in rank in South Africa. So there is no mistake about it. The instructions given to the columns closing round De Wet north of the Orange River are that all men are to be shot so that no tales may be told. Also, the troops are told to loot freely from every house, whether the men belonging to the house are fighting or not.

Dillon read from another letter by a soldier that had been published in the *Liverpool Courier:* "Lord Kitchener has issued orders that no man has to bring in any Boer prisoners. If he does, he has to give him half his rations for the prisoner's keep." Dillon quoted a third letter by a soldier serving with the Royal Welsh Regiment and published in the *Wolverhampton Express and Star:* "We take no prisoners now ... There happened to be a few wounded Boers left. We put them through the mill. Every one was killed."

On January 20, 1902, John Dillon once again expressed his outrage in the House of Commons against Britain's "wholesale violation of one of the best recognized usages of modern war, which forbids you to desolate or devastate the country of the enemy and destroy the food supply on such a scale as to reduce non-combatants to starvation." "What would have been said by civilized mankind," Dillon asked, "if Germany on her march on Paris [in 1870] had turned the whole country into a howling wilderness and concentrated the French women and children into camps where they died in thousands? All civilized Europe would have rushed in to the rescue."[20]

British Commander-in-Chief Herbert Kitchener's "scorched earth" policies against the Boers included burning their farmsteads, destruction of their crops and livestock, and herding their women and children into concentration camps.

Arming the Natives

Defying the prevailing racial sensibilities of the period, General Kitchener supplied rifles to native black Africans to fight the white Boers. Eventually the British armed at least 10,000 blacks, although the policy was kept secret for fear of offending white public opinion, especially back home. As it happens, the blacks proved to be poor soldiers, and in many cases they murdered defenseless Boer women and children across the countryside. The fate of the Boer women and children who escaped the hell of the internment camps was therefore often more terrible than that of those who did not.

In his January 1902 report, General Smuts described how the British recruited black Africans:

In the Cape Colony the uncivilized Blacks have been told that if the Boers win, slavery will be brought back in the Cape Colony. They have been promised Boer property and farmsteads if they will join the English; that the Boers will have to work for the Blacks, and that they will be able to marry Boer women.

Arming the blacks, Smuts said, "represents the greatest crime which has ever been perpetrated against the White race in South Africa." Boer commando leader Jan Kemp similarly complained that the war was being fought "contrary to civilized warfare on account of it being carried on in a great measure with Kaffirs."[21] The arming of native blacks was a major reason cited by the Boer leaders for finally giving up the struggle:[22]

> ... The Kaffir tribes, within and without the frontiers of the territories of the two republics, are mostly armed and are taking part in the war against us, and through the committing of murders and all sorts of cruelties have caused and unbearable condition of affairs in many districts of both republics.

Concentration Camps

Britain's internment centers in South Africa soon became known as concentration camps, a term adapted from the *reconcentrado* camps that Spanish authorities in Cuba had set up to hold insurgents.[23]

A crusading 41-year-old English spinster, Emily Hobhouse, visited the South Africa camps and, armed with this first-hand knowledge, alerted the world to their horrors. She told of internees "... deprived of clothes ... the semi-starvation in the camps ... the fever-stricken children lying... upon the bare earth ... the appalling mortality." She also reported seeing open trucks full of women and children, exposed to the icy rain of the plains, sometimes left on railroad siding for days at a time, without food or shelter. "In some camps," Hobhouse told lecture audiences and newspaper readers back in England, "two and sometimes three different families live in one tent. Ten and even twelve *persons* are forced into a single tent." Most had to sleep on the ground. "These people will never ever forget what has happened," She also declared. "The children have been the hardest hit. They wither in the terrible heat and as a result of insufficient and improper nourishment ... To maintain this kind of camp means nothing less than murdering children."[24]

In a report to members of Parliament, Hobhouse described conditions in one camp she had visited:[25]

> ... A six month old baby [is] gasping its life out on its mother's knee. Next [tent]: a child recovering from measles sent back from hospital before it could walk, stretched on the ground white and wan. Next a girl of 21 lay dying on a stretcher. The father ... kneeling beside her, while his wife was watching a child of six also dying and one of about five drooping. Already this couple had lost three children.

Hobhouse found that none of their hardships would shake the Boer women's determination, not even seeing their own hungry children die before their eyes. They "never express," she wrote, "a wish that their men must give way. It must be fought out now, they think, to the bitter end."

Deadly epidemics — typhoid, dysentery and (for children) measles — broke out in the camps and spread rapidly. During one three week period, an epidemic at the camp at Brandfort killed nearly a tenth of the entire inmate population. In the Mafeking camp, at one point there were 400 deaths a month, most of them caused by typhoid, which worked out to an annual death rate of 173 percent.

Courtroom scene from the 1980 Australian film "Breaker Morant," which highlighted the British policy of shooting Boer prisoners during the war in South Africa. The film dramatized the case of several Australians serving with the Bush Veldt Carbineers, a special "anti-commando" unit, who were tried and executed in February 1902 for having shot twelve Boer prisoners. In the award-winning film, Edward Woodward played the role of Lt. "Breaker" Morant.

Altogether the British held 116,572 Boers in their South African internment camps — that is, about a fourth of the entire Boer population — nearly all of them women and children. After the war, an official government report concluded that 27,927 Boers had died in the camps — victims of disease, undernourishment and exposure. Of these, 26,251 were women and children, of whom 22,074 were children under the age of 16. Among the nearly 115,000 black Africans who were also interned in the British camps, nearly all of whom were tenant workers and servants of the better-off Boers, it is estimated that more than 12,000 died.[26]

After meeting with Hobhouse, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, leader of the Liberal Party opposition (and future Prime Minister), publicly declared: "When is a war not a war? When it is waged by methods of barbarism in South Africa." This memorable phrase — "methods of barbarism" — quickly became widely quoted, provoking both warm praise and angry condemnation.[27]

Most Englishmen, who supported their government's war policy, did not wish to hear such talk. Echoing the widespread sentiment in favor of the war, the London *Times* editorialized that Campbell-Bannerman's remarks were irresponsible, if not subversive. The influential paper's reasoning reflected the prevailing "my country, right or wrong" attitude. "When a nation is committed to a serious struggle in which its position in the world is at stake," the *Times* told its readers, "it is the duty of every citizen, no matter what his opinion about the political quarrel, to abstain at the very least from hampering and impeding the policy of his country, if he cannot lend his active support."[28]

David Lloyd George, an MP who would later serve as his country's Prime Minister during the First World War, accused the British authorities of pursuing "a policy of extermination" against women and children. Granted, it was not a direct policy, he said, but it was one that was having that effect. "... The war is an outrage perpetrated in the name of human freedom," Lloyd George protested. He also expressed concern over the impact of these cruel policies on Britain's long-term interests:[29]

> When children are being treated in this way and dying, we are simply ranging the deepest passions of the human heart against British rule in Africa.... It will always be remembered that this is the way British rule started there [in the Boer republics], and this is the method by which it was brought about.

During a speech in Parliament on February 18, 1901, David Lloyd George quoted from a letter by a British officer: "We move from valley to valley, lifting cattle and sheep, burning and looting, and turning out women and children to weep in despair

Emily Hobhouse

beside the ruin of their once beautiful homesteads." Lloyd George commented: "It is a war not against men, but against women and children."[30]

"The conscience of Britain," historian Thomas Pakenham later observed, "was stirred by the holocaust in the camps, just as the conscience of America was stirred by the holocaust in Vietnam." It was largely as a result of public outrage in Britain over conditions in the camps — for which Emily Hobhouse deserves much of the credit — that measures were eventually taken that sharply reduced the death rate.[31]

Propaganda

In this war, as in so many others, propagandists churned out a stream of malicious lies to generate popular backing for the aggression and killing. British newspapers, churchmen and war correspondents invented hundreds of fake atrocity stories that portrayed the Boers as treacherous and arrogant brutes. These included numerous shocking claims alleging that Boer soldiers massacred pro-British civilians, that Boer civilians murdered British soldiers, and that Boers executed fellow-Boers who wanted to surrender. "There was virtually no limit to such invention," historian Phillip Knightley has noted.

A widely shown newsreel film purported to show Boers attacking a Red Cross tent while British doctors and nurses treat the wounded. Actually this fake had been shot with actors on Hampstead Heath, a suburb of London.[32]

Exposing the War-Makers

In the United States, as in most of Europe, public interest in the conflict was keen. Although public sentiment in these countries was largely pro-Boer and anti-British, the government leaders — fearful of the adverse consequences of defying Britain — were publicly pro-British, or at least studiously neutral.

William Jennings Bryan, Andrew Carnegie and many other Americans were embarrassed by the striking parallel between US and British policy of the day: just as Britain was forcibly subduing the Boers in southern Africa, American troops were brutally suppressing native fighters for independence in the newly-acquired Philippines. Echoing a widespread American sentiment of the day, Mark Twain declared: "I think that England sinned when she got herself into a war in South Africa which she could have avoided, just as we have sinned in getting into a similar war in the Philippines." In spite of such sentiment, the government of President McKinley and the jingoistic newspapers of William Randolph Hearst sided with Britain.[33]

But even in Britain itself, there was considerable opposition to the war. In the House of Commons, Liberal MP Philip Stanhope (later Baron Weardale) introduced a resolution expressing disapproval of Britain's military campaign against the Boer republics. In tracing the war's origins, he said:[34]

> Accordingly, the [pro-British] South African League was formed, and Mr. Rhodes and his associates — generally of the German Jew extraction — found money in thousands for its propaganda. By this league in [British] South Africa and here [in Britain] they have poisoned the wells of public knowledge. Money has been lavished in the London world and in the press, and the result has been that little by little public opinion has been wrought up and inflamed, and now, instead of finding the English people dealing with this matter in a truly English spirit, we are dealing with it in a spirit which generations to come will condemn ...

Opposition in Britain to the war came especially from the political left. The Social Democratic Federation (SDF), led by Henry M. Hyndman, was especially outspoken. *Justice*, the SDF weekly, had already warned its readers in 1896 that "Beit, Barnato and their fellow-Jews" were aiming for "an Anglo-Hebraic Empire in Africa stretching from Egypt to Cape Colony," designed to swell their "overgrown fortunes." Since 1890, the SDF had repeatedly cautioned against the pernicious influence of "capitalist Jews on the London press." When war broke out in 1899, *Justice* declared that the "Semitic

lords of the press" had successfully propagandized Britain into a "criminal war of aggression."[35]

Opposition to the war was similarly strong in the British labor movement. In September 1900, the Trades Union Congress passed a resolution condemning the Anglo-Boer war as one designed "to secure the gold fields of South Africa for cosmopolitan Jews, most of whom had no patriotism and no country."[36]

No member of the House of Commons spoke out more vigorously against the war than John Burns, Labour MP for Battersea. The former SDF member had gained national prominence as a staunch defender of the British workingman during his leadership of the dockworkers' strike of 1889. "Wherever we examine, there is the financial Jew," Burns declared in the House on February 6, 1900, "operating, directing, inspiring the agencies that have led to this war."

"The trail of the financial serpent is over this war from beginning to end." The British army, Burns said, had traditionally been the "Sir Galahad of History." But in Africa it had become the "janissary of the Jews."[37]

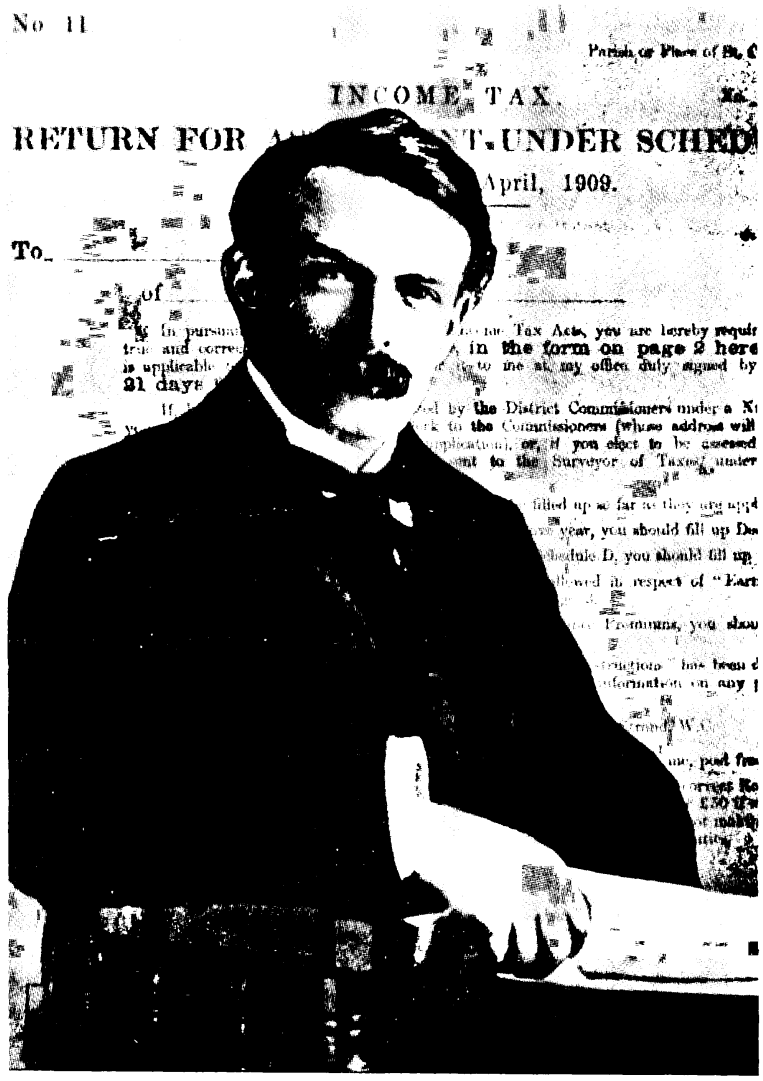
Burns was a legendary fighter for the rights of the British worker, a tireless champion of environmental reform, women's rights and improved municipal services. Even Cecil Rhodes had referred to him as "the most eloquent leader of the British democracy." It was not merely the Jewish role in Capitalism that alarmed Burns. To his diary he once confided that "the undoing of England is within the confines of our afternoon journey amongst the Jews" of East London.[38]

Irish nationalist Members of Parliament had special reason to sympathize with the Boers, whom they regarded — like the people of Ireland — as fellow victims of British duplicity and oppression. One Irish MP, Michael Davitt, even resigned his seat in the House of Commons in "personal and political protest against a war which I believe to be the greatest infamy of the nineteenth century."[39]

One of the most influential campaigners against the "Jew-imperialist design" in South Africa was John A. Hobson (1858-1940), a prominent journalist and economist.[40] In 1899 the *Manchester Guardian* sent him to South Africa to report first-hand for its readers on the situation there. During his three month investigation, Hobson became convinced that a small group of Jewish "Randlords" was essentially responsible for the strife and conflict.[41]

In a *Guardian* article dispatched from Johannesburg just a few weeks before the outbreak of the war, he told readers of the influential liberal daily:[42]

> In Johannesburg the Boer population is a mere handful of officials and their families, some five thousand of the population; the rest is about evenly divided between white settlers, mostly from Great Britain, and the [native black] Kaffirs, who are everywhere in White Man's Africa the hewers of wood and the drawers of water.
>
> The town is in some respects dominantly and even aggressively British, but British with a difference which it takes some little time to understand. That difference is due to the Jewish factor. If one takes the recent figures of the census, there appears to be less than seven thousand Jews in Johannesburg, but the experience of the street rapidly exposes this fallacy of figures. The shop fronts and business houses, the market place, the saloons, the "stoops" of the smart suburban houses and sufficient to convince one of the large presence of the chosen people. If any doubt remains, a walk outside the Exchange, where in the streets, "between the chains," the financial side of the gold business is transacted, will dispel it.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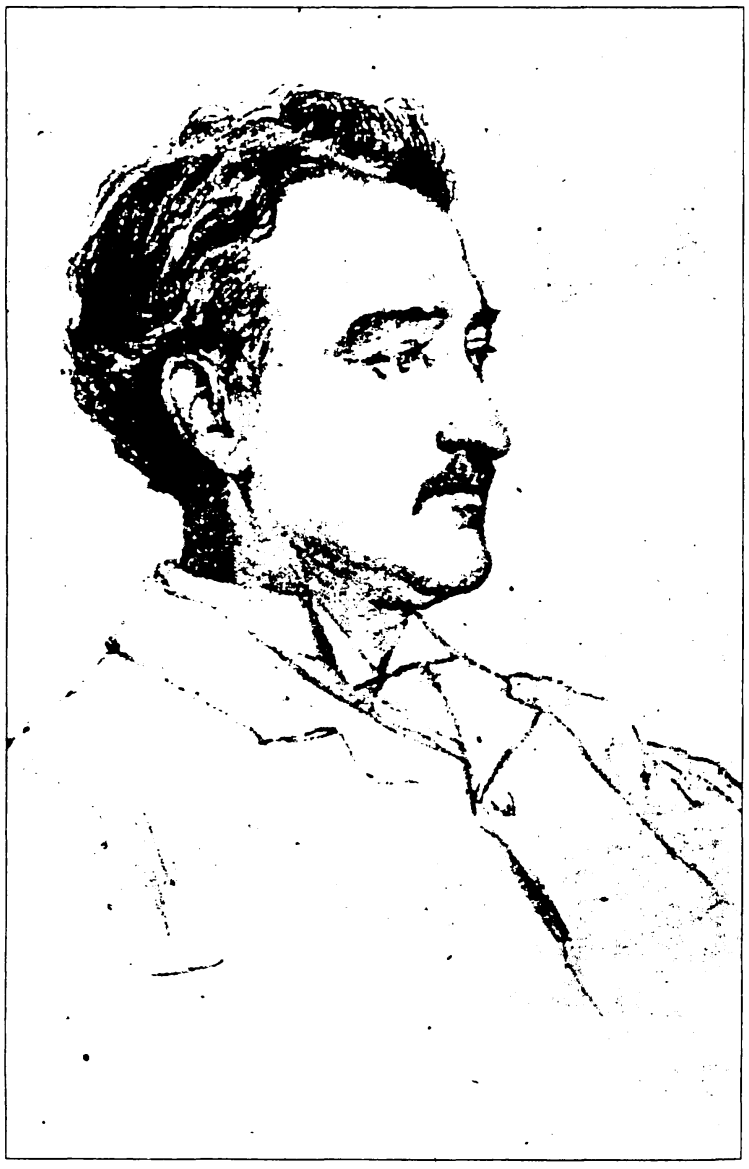
David Lloyd George, an influential Member of Parliament who would later serve as his country's Prime Minister during the First World War, accused Britain of waging a "war of extermination" against Boer women and children.



At the age of 23, Cecil Rhodes wrote of his great goal: "Why should we not form a secret society with but one object, the furtherance of the British Empire and the bringing of the whole uncivilized world under British rule, for the recovery of the United States, for the making the Anglo-Saxon race but one Empire? What a dream, but yet it is probable, it is possible." (Source: A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, 1997, p. 6.)

> So far as wealth and power and even numbers are concerned Johannesburg is essentially a Jewish town. Most of these Jews figure as British subjects, though many are in fact German and Russian Jews who have come to Africa after a brief sojourn in England. The rich, rigorous, and energetic financial and commercial families are chiefly English Jews, not a few of whom here, as elsewhere, have Anglicised their names after true parasitic fashion. I lay stress on this fact because, though everyone knows the Jews are strong, their real strength here is much underestimated. Though figures are so misleading, it is worth while to mention that the directory of Johannesburg shows 68 Cohens against 21 Joneses and 53 Browns.
>
> The Jews take little active part in the Outlander agitation; they let others do that sort of work. But since half of the land and nine-tenths of the wealth of the Transvaal claimed for the Outlander are chiefly theirs, they will be chief gainers by an settlement advantageous to the Outlander.

In an influential book published in 1900, *The War in South Africa*, Hobson warned and admonished his fellow countrymen:[43]

> We are fighting in order to place a small international oligarchy of mine-owners and speculators in power at Pretoria. Englishmen will surely do well to recognize that the economic and political destinies of South Africa are, and seem likely to remain, in the hands of men most of whom are foreigners by origin, whose trade is finance, and whose trade interests are not chiefly British.

Anti-imperialist and working-class circles acclaimed Hobson's widely read work. Commenting on it, the weekly *Labour Leader*, semi-official organ of the Independent Labour Party, noted: "Modern imperialism is really run by half a dozen financial houses, many of them Jewish, to whom politics is a counter in the game of buying and selling securities."[44] In a January 1900 essay, *Labour Leader* editor (and MP) J. Keir Hardie told readers:[45]

> The war is a capitalist' war, begotten by capitalists' money, lied into being by a perjured mercenary capitalist press, and fathered by unscrupulous politicians, themselves the merest tools of the capitalists ... As Socialists, our sympathies are bound to be with the Boers. Their Republican form of Government bespeaks freedom, and is thus hateful to tyrants ...

Defeat

As the year 1900 drew to a close, British forces held the major Boer towns, including the capitals of the two republics, as well as the main Boer railway lines. Paul Kruger, the man who personified his people's resistance to alien rule, had been forced into exile. By the end of 1901, the Boers' military forces had been reduced to some 25,000 men in the field, deployed in scattered and largely un-coordinated commando units. The hard-pressed defenders had only a shadow of a central government.

In the spring of 1902, with their land almost entirely under enemy occupation, and their remaining fighters threatened with annihilation and mili-

tarily outnumbered six to one, the Boers sued for peace. On May 31, 1902, their leaders concluded 33 months of heroic struggle against greatly superior forces by signing a treaty that recognized King Edward VII as their sovereign. President Kruger learned of the surrender while living in European exile, far from his beloved homeland. After devoting his life to his cherished dream of a self-reliant white people's republic, he died in 1904 in Switzerland, a blind and broken man.

Conclusion

When the fighting began in October 1899, the British confidently expected their troops to victoriously conclude the conflict by Christmas. But this actually proved to be the longest, costliest, bloodiest and most humiliating war fought by Britain between 1815 and 1914. Even though the military forces mobilized in South Africa by the world's greatest imperial power outnumbered the Boer fighters by nearly five to one, they required almost three years to completely subdue the tough pioneer people of fewer than half a million.

Britain deployed some 336,000 imperial and 83,000 colonial troops — or 448,000 altogether. Of this force, 22,000 found a grave in South Africa, 14,000 of them succumbing to sickness. For their part, the two Boer republics were able to mobilize 87,360 fighters, a force that included 2,120 foreign volunteers and 13,300 Boer-related Afrikaners from the British-ruled Cape and Natal provinces. In addition to the more than 7,000 Boer fighters who lost their lives, some 28,000 Boers perished in the British concentration camps — nearly all of them women and children.[46]

The war's non-human costs were similarly appalling. As part of Kitchener's "scorched-earth" campaign, British troops wrought terrible destruction throughout the rural Boer areas, especially in the Orange Free State. Outside of the largest towns, hardly a building was left intact. Perhaps a tenth of the prewar horses, cows and other farm stock remained. In much of the Boer lands, no crops had been sown for two years.[47]

Even by the standards of the time (and certainly by those of today), British political and military leaders committed frightful war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Boers of South Africa — crimes for which no one was ever brought to account. General Kitchener, for one, was never punished for introducing measures that even a future prime minister called "methods of barbarism." To the contrary, after concluding his South African service he was named a viscount and a field marshal, and then, at the outbreak of the First World War, was appointed Secretary of War. Upon his death in 1916, he was remembered not as a criminal, but rather idolized as a personification of British virtue and rectitude.[48]

Sir Alfred Milner, British High Commissioner for South Africa.

In a sense, the Anglo-Boer conflict was less a war between combatants than a military campaign against civilians. The number of Boer women and children who perished in the concentration camps was four times as large as the number of Boer fighting men who died (of all causes) during the war. In fact, more children under the age of 16 perished in the British camps than men were killed in action on both sides.

The boundless greed of the Jewish "gold bugs" coincided with the imperialistic aims of British Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain, the dreams of gold and diamond baron Cecil Rhodes, and the political ambitions of Alfred Milner. On the altar of their avarice and ambition, they sacrificed the lives of some 30,000 people who wanted only to live in freedom, as well as 22,000 young men of Britain and her dominions.

At its core, Britain's leaders were willing to sacrifice the lives of many of her own sons, and to kill

men, women and children in a far-away continent, to add to the wealth and power of an already immensely wealthy and powerful worldwide empire. Few wars during the past one hundred years were as avoidable, or as patently crass in motivation as was the South African War of 1899-1902.

Notes

1. M. Davitt, *The Boer Fight For Freedom*, p. 425. See also: A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, pp. 143-144; F. Welsh, *South Africa: A Narrative History*, p. 303; "Kruger, Stephanus Johannes Paulus," *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (Chicago), 1957 edition, vol. 13, pp. 506-507.
2. F. Welsh, *South Africa: A Narrative History*, p. 302.
3. A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, pp. 172-181; Reader's Digest Association, *Illustrated History of South Africa*, p. 174; See also S. Kanfer, *The Last Empire*, esp. pp. 96, 101-111.
4. See S. Kanfer, *The Last Empire*.
5. J. Flint, *Cecil Rhodes*, pp. 86-93. See also: P. Emden, *Randlords* (1935).
6. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 86-87.
7. G. Saron and L. Hotz, eds., *The Jews in South Africa*, pp. 193-194.
8. *Report of the Select Committee of the Cape of Good Hope House of Assembly on the Jameson Raid* (1897), pp. 165, 167.
9. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. xxv, 87, 121; A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, p. 284.
10. A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, pp. 284-304; S. Kanfer, *The Last Empire*, pp. 129-131; Chamberlain's speech of Nov. 11, 1895, is also quoted in: Robin W. Winks, ed., *British Imperialism* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967), p. 80.
11. G. Saron & L. Hotz, eds., *The Jews in South Africa* (1955), pp. 193-194; *Second Report from the Select Committee on British South Africa* (1897), p. vii.
12. T. Pakenham, *The Boer* War, p. 1. Also quoted in: A. Thomas, *Rhodes*, p. 337.
13. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, p. 88.
14. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, p. 518.
15. T. Pakenham, *Scramble*, p. 558.
16. Claire Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility" (1978), p. 4.
17. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 90-92, 103, 104, 107.
18. P. Knightley, *The First Casualty* (1976), pp. 77-78.
19. Quoted in: Phillip Knightley, *The First Casualty*, p. 75.
20. W. Ziegler, ed., *Ein Dokumentenwerk Über die Englische Humanität* (1940), p. 199.
21. Reader's Digest Association, *Illustrated History of South Africa*, p. 246.
22. Reader's Digest Association, *Illustrated History of South Africa*, p. 246.
23. During the American Civil War, Union forces rounded up large numbers of civilians who were considered hostile to Federal authority and interned them in "posts." President Truman's grandmother, with six of her children, was held in one such "post," which Truman said was really a "concentration camp." Source: Merle Miller, *Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman* (New York: 1974), pp. 78-79. See also: M. Weber "The Civil War Concentration Camps," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Summer 1981, p. 143. In September 1918, the fledgling Soviet government issued a decree that ordered: "It is essential to protect the Soviet Republic from class enemies by isolating them in concentration camps." Sources: D. Volkogonov, *Lenin: A New Biography* (New York: 1994), p. 234; M. Heller & A. Nekrich, *Utopia in Power* (New York: 1986), p. 66.
24. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 533-539; T. Pakenham, *Scramble*, pp. 578; A rather detailed report by Hobhouse about the camps is in: S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 198-207.
25. P. Knightley, *The First Casualty*, pp. 75-76. Source cited: UK Public Record Office, W.O. 32/8061.
26. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 607; T. Pakenham, *Scramble*, pp. 578-579; Reader's Digest Association, *Illustrated History of South Africa*, p. 256.
27. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, p. 534, 540-541; S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 216, 238.
28. S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 238-239 (note)
29. P. Knightley, *The First Casualty*, p. 72; T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 539-540.
30. In a speech on Nov. 27, 1899, Lloyd George said that the *Uitlanders* on whose behalf Britain had presumably gone to war were German Jews. Right or wrong, the Boers were better than the people Britain was defending in South Africa. And in a speech on July 25, 1900, Lloyd George said: "... A war of annexation, however, against a proud people must be a war of extermination, and that is unfortunately what it seems we are committing ourselves to — burning homesteads and turning women and children out of their homes." Source: Bentley Brinkerhoff Gilbert, *David Lloyd George: A Political Life* (Ohio State Univ. Press, 1987), pp. 183, 191.
31. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 547-548.
32. P. Knightley, *The First Casualty*, pp. 72, 73, 75.
33. Byron Farwell, "Taking Sides in the Boer War," *American Heritage*, April 1976, pp. 22, 24, 25.
34. Speech of October 18, 1899. S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, p. 43.
35. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility" (1978), pp. 5, 15; Robert S. Wistrich, *Antisemitism* (1992), p. 105-106, p. 281 (n. 10, 11). Source cited: C. Hirshfield, "The British Left and the 'Jewish Conspiracy'," *Jewish Social Studies*, Spring 1981, pp. 105-107.
36. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility," pp. 11, 20; Also quoted in: Robert S. Wistrich, *Antisemitism* (1992), p. 281 (n. 11). Source cited: C. Hirshfield, "The British Left and the 'Jewish Conspiracy'," *Jewish Social Studies*, Spring 1981, pp.

106-107.

37. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility," pp. 10, 20. Burns' speech of Feb. 6, 1990, is also quoted in part in S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 94-95. It is also quoted (although not entirely accurately) in: R. S. Wistrich, *Antisemitism* (1992), p. 281 (n. 11). Source cited: C. Hirshfield, "The British Left and the 'Jewish Conspiracy'," *Jewish Social Studies*, Spring 1981, p. 105.
38. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility," pp. 10, 20.
39. An excerpt of Davitt's speech of October 17, 1899, is given in: S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 33-34. Davitt also wrote a book, *The Boer Fight For Freedom*, published in 1902.
40. Hobson is perhaps best known as the author of *Imperialism: A Study*, a classic treatise on the subject first published in 1902.
41. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility," pp. 13, 23; J. A. Hobson, *The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects* (1900 and 1969), p. 189.
42. J. A. Hobson, "Johannesburg Today," *Manchester Guardian*, Sept. 28, 1899. Reprinted in: S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, pp. 26-27.
43. J. A. Hobson, *The War in South Africa*, p. 197.
44. C. Hirshfield, "The Boer War and the Issue of Jewish Responsibility," pp. 13, 23.
45. S. Koss, *The Pro-Boers*, p. 54.
46. T. Pakenham, *The Boer War*, pp. 607-608; T. Pakenham, *Scramble*, p. 581.
47. F. Welsh, *South Africa: A Narrative History* (1999), p. 343.
48. In his honor, the city of Berlin in Ontario province, Canada, was renamed Kitchener in 1916, a move that reflected the anti-German hysteria of the day.

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Defeating the Internationalists

"Despite the overwhelming domination of the internationalists over public policy, their defeat is not impossible. The movement is supported actively by only a microscopic fraction of the populace, though we all suffer from its depredations ... This represents what is probably the most extreme example of minority control in modern history, though its exponents pretend to be battling for world democracy. Their strength lies in their command over the agencies of communication and the support given them by powerful minority pressure groups, the worlds richest foundations, and powerful oil and other international financial interests. If the public could get access to the facts, the return to continentalism and to sanity in world affairs would be quickly accomplished, to the vast benefit of the national interest and security of the United States."

— Harry Elmer Barnes, *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace* (1953), p. 702.

Elie Wiesel: One More Lie

Robert Faurisson

On February 7, 1996, Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and professor at Boston University, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Jules Verne University at Picardy, France. Reporting on the speech delivered by Wiesel on that occasion, the local newspaper *(Le Courrier Picard,* Feb. 9, 1996) informed readers:

> One question the public was anxious be answered: "And what do you make of the emergence of revisionist and Holocaust denying tendencies?" Wiesel responded: "Those are [the work of] virulent and vicious anti-Semites, organized and well-financed. On the day I received the Nobel Prize there were hundreds in the street demonstrating against me. Never will I afford them the dignity of a debate. These are morally sick individuals. While I am able to fight against injustice, I have no idea how to go about fighting against ugliness."

Here one can see Elie Wiesel's typical phraseology, but his statement that "on the day I received the Nobel Prize there were hundreds in the street demonstrating against me" is something new, and constitutes yet one more lie by this "prominent false witness," as I have called him, or "Shoah merchant" as Pierre Vidal-Naquet (in an interview with M. Folco, in *Zéro*, April 1987, p. 57) has called him.

As someone who was present in Oslo at the site of the award ceremony in December 1986, I am able to report that the number of protesters there was precisely zero. Three persons did show up to distribute a leaflet, printed in both Swedish and English, entitled "Elie Wiesel: A Prominent False Witness" [also available as an IHR leaflet]. All three of these persons were Frenchmen: Pierre Guillaume, Serge Thion and myself.

Robert Faurisson is Europe's foremost Holocaust revisionist scholar. Born in 1929, he was educated at the Paris Sorbonne, and served as a professor at the University of Lyon in France from 1974 until 1990. He was a specialist of text and document analysis. His writings on the Holocaust issue have appeared in several books and numerous scholarly articles, many of which have been published in this *Journal*. A four-volume collection of many of his revisionist writings, *Écrits Révisionnistes (1974-1998),* was published in 1999.

The Elie Wiesel item is a translation and adaptation of a piece originally written in February 1996, and published in *Rivarol*, March 15, 1996, p. 2. The item about Rossel and Lanzmann is adapted from a text originally written on June 25, 1999.

No Light, No Smoke, No Stench, No Holes

Robert Faurisson

In addition to the phrase "No Holes, No Holocaust," one may now add: "And no light, no smoke, no stench." This is thanks to Dr. Maurice Rossel, an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who, in September 1944, visited the Auschwitz camp Commandant. (For more on this, see my 1980, essay, "Sur Auschwitz, un document capital de la Croix-Rouge Internationale," reprinted in the 1999 collection of my writings, *Écrits révisionnistes (1974-1998)*, pp. 219 ff.)

On the front page of the "Style" section of *The Washington Post* of June 25, 1999 (pp. C1, C8) appears a lengthy article by staff writer Marc Fisher that sympathetically reports on a new film by French-Jewish filmmaker Claude Lanzmann, "A Visitor from the Living." [See also: S. Thion, "Claude Lanzmann and 'Shoah': The Dictatorship of Imbecility," Nov.-Dec. 1997 *Journal*, pp. 8-10.]

An extract from the *Post* article about the film:

> Lanzmann moves in, his short, calm questions presented like invitations to a dance, with all the proper flourishes and courtesies.
>
> "Did you know you were in an extermination camp?"
>
> "I didn't know the scale it had reached," Rossel says, and for the first time, he is looking off, just slightly away.
>
> "Did you see a light glimmering?" It seems the Poles in nearly villages have told Lanzmann that they saw this light from Auschwitz, this reflection of horror.
>
> "I saw none, no smoke," Rossel says.
>
> "No stench?"
>
> "No stench."

Suckered Into War

"After the guns fell silent on the Western Front in World War I, historians began burrowing into the archives. Books on how British propaganda had cleverly suckered America into a war that had left 116,000 Americans dead, and gained us nothing, were best-sellers. The court historians had been routed by the revisionists."

— Patrick J. Buchanan, *A Republic, Not an Empire* (1999), p. 253.

Library Removes Revisionist Work

A London library has removed a book from its collection because it questions Holocaust extermination claims. A report on the incident distributed by the World Jewish Congress relates that a copy of *Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence* was removed "after a local politician discovered it in the history section and voiced his complaint to the library staff." (Source: WJC dispatch, headlined "Obscene," in *The Jewish Press* [Brooklyn], June 4, 1999.)

Auschwitz: A Judge Looks at the Evidence, published by the Institute for Historical Review, is a scholarly revisionist study of Auschwitz and the "Holocaust" issue. It was written by Wilhelm Stäglich, a retired German jurist who served in 1944 with an anti-aircraft unit stationed at Auschwitz, and after the war for 20 years as an administrative judge in Hamburg. (The hardcover edition is available from the IHR for $14.95, plus shipping.)

Removal from public libraries of books presenting dissident historical views is a form of censorship, of course. In Britain, apparently, librarians will now remove any "politically incorrect" books that a "local politician" finds objectionable.

In the United States, libraries are inconsistent regarding "Holocaust denial" books. Some libraries will not accept such works, and others will quietly remove them after objections are voiced. But many American libraries, including the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and prominent university libraries, include a range of "denial" books in their holdings, and even subscribe to the IHR's *Journal of Historical Review.*

In 1979 the German edition of Stäglich's Auschwitz book was "indexed," effectively prohibiting its open sale in Germany, and a while later authorities seized the remaining copies from the publisher. Because of his public skepticism of Holocaust claims, in 1983 the University of Göttingen revoked his 1951 doctorate in law — on the basis of a Third Reich law.

Stäglich has been member of this *Journal*'s Editorial Advisory Committee since 1981. The text of his address at the Fifth IHR Conference in 1983 was published in the Spring 1984 *Journal* issue.

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

— Aristotle

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Interest in the IHR web site has been growing steadily over the past year. In recent weeks it has been receiving about 2000 "hits" or "visits" per day.

Journal associate editor Greg Raven maintains and operates this site as its "web master." Because it is linked to several other revisionist (and anti-revisionist) web sites, visitors can easily access vast amounts of additional information.

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Kennedy's 1945 Visit to Germany

In late July and early August 1945, just weeks after the end of the war in Europe, the 28-year-old John F. Kennedy visited war-devastated Germany. Accompanying him on this tour was US Navy Secretary James Forrestal (whom President Truman later appointed as the first Secretary of Defense).

Kennedy recorded his experiences and observations in a diary that was not made public until just a few years ago. (It was published under the title *Prelude to Leadership: The European Diary of John F. Kennedy, Summer 1945* [Washington, DC: Regnery, 1995].)

These diary entries show the youthful Kennedy's wide-ranging curiosity and eye for telling detail — attributes that were also manifest in his two best-selling books, *While England Slept* (1940) and *Profiles in Courage*. Earlier in 1945, he had attended the opening session of the United Nations organization in San Francisco, and had visited Britain to view the parliamentary election campaign, covering both events as a journalist for the Hearst newspaper chain.

In Berlin, Kennedy noted upon his arrival there on July 28, "The devastation is complete. Unter den Linden [boulevard] and the streets are relatively clear, but there is not a single building which is not gutted. On some of the streets the stench — sweet and sickish from dead bodies — is overwhelming." For the Berlin population, he reported, "The basic ration is 1 1/2 pounds a day — approximately 1,200 calories (2,000 considered by the health authorities for normal diet — the ration is only 900 calories in Vienna)."

Kennedy made several diary references to the ferocity of the Soviet Russian occupation of Germany. "The Russians moved in with such violence at the beginning — stripping factories and raping women — that they alienated the German members of the Communistic Party, which had some strength in the factories."

"Raping and looting" by Soviet troops "was general," Kennedy also reported. "What they didn't take, they destroyed." Elsewhere he wrote: "The Russians have pretty well plundered the country, have been living off it ... The Russians have been taking all the able-bodied men and women and shipping them away."

He also took note of the impact of the devastating British-American air attacks: "According to our naval experts, the bombing of Germany was not effective in stopping their production, and production increased three-fold during 1942-1944." Right until the end, Kennedy also reported, an adequate food distribution was maintained in the German capital: "The feeding in Berlin was extremely well organized, even in the most severe blitz."

A youthful John F. Kennedy

Ordinary Germans, he reported at another point, "did not realize what was going on in the concentration camps."

Kennedy and Forrestal also visited Bremen, an important north German industrial and commercial center, and a major port city. As Kennedy reported, the Russians were not the only occupation forces to carry out wide-scale looting in Germany: "The British had gone into Bremen ahead of us — and everyone was unanimous in their description of British looting and destruction, which had been very heavy. They had taken everything which at all related to the sea — ships, small boats, lubricants, machinery, etc."

He also noted misdeeds of US troops. "Americans looted town [Bremen] heavily on arrival," he wrote. "People do not seem to realize," he added, "how fortunate they have been in escaping the Russians. As far as looting the homes and the towns, however, the British and Americans have been very guilty."

In Bremen, Kennedy wrote, the Germans' diet "is about 1,200 calories — ours being 4,000." In spite of everything, "none of the [American] officers and men here seem to have any particular hate for the Germans."

Kennedy met and spoke with US Navy officials in Bremen. Because he had been commander of an American torpedo boat in the Pacific — the famous PT-109 — he had a special interest in the German counterpart — the *Schnellboot* or "E boat." After looking into the matter in some detail, Kennedy concluded that the German version was "far superior to our PT boat."

Hitler's Place in History

After Bremen and Bremerhaven, Kennedy and Forrestal flew to Bavaria, where they visited the town of Berchtesgaden and then drove up to Hitler's mountain retreat, which was "completely gutted, the result of an air attack from 12,000 pound bombs by the R.A.F. [British air force] in an attempt on Hitler's life." They then ascended to Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" lair high in the mountains.

Just after this visit, Kennedy wrote a remarkable commentary in his diary, dated August 1, 1945, about Hitler and his place in history:

> After visiting these places, you can easily understand how that within a few years Hitler will emerge from the hatred that surrounds him now as one of the most significant figures who ever lived.
>
> He had boundless ambition for his country which rendered him a menace to the peace of the world, but he had a mystery about him in the way that he lived and in the manner of his death that will live and grow after him. He had in him the stuff of which legends are made.

Less than a year after this European tour, Kennedy was elected to Congress in Massachusetts, beginning a political career that took him to the White House, and which ended suddenly with his death on November 22, 1963.

"The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic ... Mythology distracts us everywhere — in government as in business, in politics as in economics, in foreign as in domestic affairs ..."

— John F. Kennedy, Speech at Yale University, June 11, 1962.

Polish Professor Under Fire for 'Holocaust Denial'

Dariusz Ratajczak, a professor at the University of Opole in southern Poland, was suspended in April 1999 from his teaching post following protests over his book, "Dangerous Topics," in which he writes sympathetically about revisionist scholarship disputing Holocaust claims.

Jewish organizations lost no time in voicing alarm over the new book, which apparently is the most scholarly presentation thus far in Poland of Holocaust revisionism. A Jewish community leader in Poland called it "shocking."

In the book, which was sold in university bookstores, Ratajczak appears to agree with specialists who contend that, for technical reasons, well-known claims of killing millions of Jews in gas chambers are impossible, that Zyklon B was used only for disinfecting, and that there was no German plan or program to exterminate Europe's Jews. He also contends that most Holocaust scholars "are adherents of a religion of the Holocaust."

The 37-year-old professor, who served with the university's Historical Institute, was popular with students. He responded to the furor with a letter to the influential Polish daily newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, in which he denied being an anti-Semite.

On May 31, 1999, state prosecutors in southwestern Poland brought charges against Ratajczak for violating a recently-enacted law that bans public denial of German crimes. If convicted, the scholar faces three years imprisonment.

In promulgating the law, Poland joins several other European states that criminalize "Holocaust denial." Unlike similar laws elsewhere, though, the Polish law additionally bans "denial" of Communist crimes.

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Bad News and the Good War

JOSEPH SOBRAN

Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" is the most powerful movie I've seen in years. The opening sequence, already famous, shows the D-Day invasion in twenty minutes of gut-churning horror. War has never looked like this on the screen, and Spielberg surpasses himself to make the experience real to us.

Young soldiers vomit in fear as their landing crafts approach the French coast. When the doors are lowered to let them out, the men in front are instantly cut down. German bullets slam into their chests and helmets even before they can jump into the water. The timing, so unlike other movies, is shocking in itself. We expect our boys — as in other movies — to have a moment to collect themselves, to poise for action, at least to brace themselves for death.

No. That's the movie ritual — the conventional final moment when a man is allowed to strike a final pose, if only of agony. Spielberg serves immediate notice that war isn't like that, ergo this movie isn't like that. By slightly accelerating death, he makes it seem horrible again. This effect is achieved in a merciless split second.

It gets worse. The boys who make it to shore take hideous wounds. One gropes to pick up the arm that has just been shot off. Another lies babbling "Mama" with his intestines protruding. Another has his face shot away. Waves of blood lap the shore. These things happen so fast they barely have time to register, a chaos of death and mutilation. Spielberg films them with hand-held cameras, in jerky footage that makes you dizzy watching them, against a tremendous din of mortar and machine-gun fire. There are no panoramic shots, as in films like "The Longest Day," to give an epic (and comforting) distance to the violence. It's hard to imagine how the feeling of being under fire could be conveyed more terrifyingly on film.

When the Americans finally capture the cliff they have been storming, they shoot even the Germans who have raised their hands in surrender. It hardly seems like an atrocity; it's more like a relief.

Cut to the office of General George C. Marshall, who is told that one of the soldiers killed on the beach was a boy named Ryan, two of whose three brothers have also died within the week; the third has just landed behind the lines in France. Marshall orders that this last surviving brother be found and removed from combat.

The rest of the movie centers on the squad assigned to save Private Ryan, who as it turns out doesn't want to be saved. Tom Hanks stars as the captain in charge of the mission. He's perfectly cast, though I wouldn't have thought so going in: I associated him with lightweight comedies and sentimental stuff like "Forrest Gump." He's a civilian — an English teacher — forced by fate to be an officer. He wants to do his duty and go home. Meanwhile he has to take responsibility for younger men's lives. Hanks convincingly shows courage by taking things one step at a time, without bravado. You root for him, not to kill Germans, but to make it home, where he can just be normal again.

Joseph Sobran

Spielberg says he didn't want to make an anti-war film; he wanted to show the courage of the Americans who fought the war by showing just what the war was. He has earned the praised of Paul Fussell, whose book *Wartime* complained that American civilians have always been given a "Disneyfied" picture of combat, without the horror, din, mutilation, and total, trouser-soiling terror of the real thing. We hear a great deal about the government lies these days, but the lies of World War II propaganda have become part of our cultural heritage.

"Saving Private Ryan" is a film Americans need to see before the next time the government wants to send their sons to fight abroad. That's the trouble: it's always abroad. Unlike Europe, Russia, and the Far East, we have no memory of battles near home, of foreign soldiers on our shores, of our cities being bombed. Two-thirds of the 50 million dead in World War II were civilians; virtually no American civilians were harmed.

To this day our perspective on war in general, and World War II in particular, is not only profoundly different from other people's, but essen-

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tially naive. Though this movie is the best corrective Hollywood has ever offered, Spielberg doesn't challenge — and in fact believes in — the larger mythology of the war, which is still secular liberalism's holy war. He shows Americans as the rescuers; it just happens that in this case the Yanks are trying to rescue one of their own (even if it transpires that Private Ryan, as befits a young American hero, doesn't want to be rescued).

A lot more revisionism is in order. The American forces killed their share of civilians, from Tokyo to Dresden, and the atomic bomb was, as Fussell notes, part of the brutal logic of the war. It began with optimistic nonsense about "surgical strikes" and "precision bombing" and soon degenerated into indiscriminate mass murder, enthusiastically perpetrated by Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill along with the ally Joseph Stalin.

According to the liberal historian James Bacque, the Allies caused the deaths of as many as nine million Germans, mostly civilians, *after the war ended*. In his book *Crimes and Mercies*, Bacque describes the policy of mass starvation imposed on Germany during the occupation; he also describes the subsequent cover-up. Charitable donations of food from abroad were banned; the Germans themselves were prevented from acquiring fertilizer for their crops. In effect, the notorious Morgenthau Plan was imposed after all. Bacque quotes a grim anonymous witticism: "The Morgenthau Plan was conceived in sin, died at birth, and lived to a ripe old age." (No such policy was imposed on Japan, oddly enough.)

After piecing the terrible story together, Bacque took it to Drew Middleton of the *New York Times*, who didn't challenge it but refused to print it. Hailed in Europe, Bacque's carefully documented book has been ignored here. It erases the supposed moral contrast between the Nazis and the Allies, the very foundation of the democratic regime that has displaced traditional monarchy as well as republican constitutional government. Maybe we should think of what we call "the Holocaust" as Hitler's Morgenthau Plan.

Ironically, Bacque has found Soviet records more honest than those of the democracies. The reason for this seeming paradox is simple: the Soviet rulers didn't have to worry about prying journalists and historians. They felt their darkest secrets were safe — as, until recently, they were. So those secrets were recorded with ruthless accuracy. The democratic rulers, on the other hand, couldn't be sure how long the truth could be suppressed, so they withheld or deleted many damning facts from the official records. As a result, the truth has to be gathered indirectly. But millions of deaths couldn't stay hidden forever. Bacque isn't the only one to have found the truth; another historian has arrived at a similar figure.

Charles Lindbergh addresses a meeting.

In time the official mythology of the war will be replaced by a more balanced picture. Not that any new picture will ever have the power of the old myth, but those who are seriously interested in history will realize that the myth is political propaganda. It's already happening, despite efforts to smear all "revisionism." Serious history always "revises" common and often cherished beliefs that spring from partisan motives.

A new picture need not wait on new revelations; to some extent it can be constructed by simple reflection on the obvious. It has been customary since World War II began to censure American "isolationism" and French "cowardice" for the desire to avoid war with Germany. But the isolationists were generally people who thought war wasn't in ordinary Americans' interest, and in retrospect their arguments look better than ever.

The war ended with 50 million dead (three times the carnage of the Great War, as it used to be called), with much of Europe devastated, and with Stalin in possession of several Christian countries with more nuclear weapons than heart might wish, to say no more about it; vindication enough, you might think, for those misgivings. But in the eyes of the progressive-minded, having been proved right in spades is no excuse for isolationism.

It's no longer disputed that Roosevelt and Churchill secretly schemed to get America into the war; in fact their admirers cite their efforts, and even their lies, as evidence of their far-seeing statesmanship at a time when lesser folk overwhelmingly (and short-sightedly, we are told) opposed sending their sons abroad to kill and die.

Charles Coughlin addresses radio listeners.

When Charles Lindbergh's eloquent radio speeches brought an avalanche of anti-war mail to the White House, Roosevelt launched a smear campaign against Lindbergh and illegally ordered the FBI to open his mail; he also had the phones of many letter writes tapped. To this day Lindbergh is portrayed as a Nazi sympathizer, though when the war began he tried to enlist in the armed forces; he was prevented from serving by order of Roosevelt himself. (He finally found a niche as an unpaid adviser to an aeronautics firm.)

Lindbergh is also remembered as an anti-Semite for saying, at an America First rally, that the Roosevelt Administration, the British, and the Jews were leading the agitation for war. This was perfectly true; moreover, Lindbergh said he understood why the Jews felt as they did about Germany; nevertheless, war wasn't in America's interest. But mere identification of Jewish interests — even interests Jews freely discussed among themselves — was taboo. (As it still is, even though we are expected to give Jewish interests a sort of tacit primacy.)

The British secret service actually murdered an American opponent of intervention on American soil, while British propaganda, often planted in popular movies, tried to enlist American sympathy against Germany. Much of the pro-war propaganda absurdly said that Hitler planned to invade the United States, when he was never even able to mount an invasion across the English Channel (as British officials, according to internal memos later released, fully realized at the time).

The standard mythology constantly omits what was already known — and remembered — in the years between the two world wars. In fact much of what was then obvious is now virtually secret.

The "cowardly" French remembered the Great War. It was a fresh memory, horrible, tragic, ineffaceable. Only twenty years earlier (in the 1970s, in our terms) nearly every family had sent a son to war; more than a million never came home, millions of others were wounded. Those who recalled it had no desire to repeat the experience with their sons.

The unhappy choice facing France and other countries was another war with Germany or the prospect of Communism. And people of Christian heritage, religious or not, knew what was happening to the Christians of the Soviet Union (another story the *New York Times* overlooked). Russian refugees flooded Western Europe, telling their stories.

The only way out of the dilemma was surrender to Germany. Under the circumstances, German occupation must have seemed much more bearable than the alternatives — except, of course, to the Jews and the political Left, whose perspective now constitutes the official myth without qualification.

An instructive footnote to all this is the minor myth of Father Charles Coughlin, now remembered only as an anti-Semite in the age of Hitler. From a Christian standpoint, Coughlin *might best be* described as one of the few public figures in America to tell the truth about Communism at a time when what might be called organized public opinion, led by Roosevelt and the *Times*, insisted on seeing the Soviet Union as "progressive."

Coughlin was an immensely popular radio preacher for many years before he touched the same electric fence Lindbergh would soon touch by referring publicly to Jewish interests. But as anti-Nazi propaganda intensified in the late 1930s, he called attention not only to Communist crimes but to Jewish participation in and support for Communism.

Coughlin by no means condemned all Jews; time and again, he insisted that no Jew who believed in the God of Abraham could also believe in Communism. All the same, many secularized Jews were Communist or pro-Communist, and the Soviet Union's original Communist elite had been predominantly of Jewish stock. Religious or not, such Jews were ferociously hostile to Christianity (as Europeans understood perfectly well).

It was hard to state the case fairly, and harder to get a fair hearing. The Coughlin furor came to a head after the *Kristallnacht* riots of 1938, when Coughlin devoted his regular Sunday broadcast to the Jewish question. Yes, he agreed that the violence and official robbery directed against 600,000 German Jews was outrageous. But why, he asked, was there no comparable public indignation against the Communists, who had murdered 20 million Russian and Ukrainian Christians?

The broadcast brought an immediate storm of

denunciations and accusations. The following week Coughlin quoted several of the harshest charges made against him, then invited his audience to listen to the offending broadcast again and judge for themselves whether the charges were true.

After replaying the previous week's speech — which clearly refuted the charges — he quoted a recent *New York Times* report of a convention of the American Jewish Committee. A St. Louis delegate name Abraham Levin had proposed that the Committee add to its statement of principles a declaration of anti-Communism. The proposal was denounced so violently that Levin withdrew it.

Today all that is left of Coughlin's reputation is what his enemies said of him. The broad brush of "anti-Semitism" obscures the details and nuances of what he actually said. And while we still hear — incessantly — of Pius XII's "silence" about Nazism, Coughlin gets to credit whatsoever for telling the truth about Communism at a time when so many others were not only silent about its crimes, but complicit in them.

The official myth of the prelude to World War II omits all mention of Communism, which terrified Europe. Germany was only one of several countries that had narrowly escaped a Communist revolution. This fact explains not only Hitler's popularity, but the much more widespread view that he was the lesser evil. The Jews had good reason to feel otherwise, but by the same token most gentiles felt that Communism was by far the greater threat to themselves.

But the Roosevelt Administration, ignoring the mass starvation of Ukraine and countless other atrocities, gave diplomatic recognition and other assistance to Stalin. Roosevelt compared the Soviet Constitution favorably to the US Constitution, assuring Americans that it guaranteed freedom of religion. His policy of "quarantining the aggressors" was never applied to the Soviet Union, even after its invasions of Poland, Finland, and the Baltic states. The notion that war forced him into an alliance with Stalin is a sentimental exculpation; he had befriended Stalin from his first year in office. The war merely gave him a patriotic pretext for continuing to do so.

The truth, in order to be suppressed, doesn't have to be denied. It can be systematically ignored. After all, even denial acknowledges that there is something to be discussed; it creates awareness in spite of itself. A studious silence is far more efficacious. If the major channels of information never mention a subject, it virtually ceases to exist.

Take Steven Spielberg. He has made a heroic effort to tell the truth about World War II, and he has shown things others have hidden. But like every member of his (and my) generation, he is the unwitting heir of lies, and his film tells a story shaped, in spite of his intentions, by the official mythology. In our time telling the truth requires more than honest intentions; it requires enormous cunning, and sometimes guile.

Gerhard Förster

Gerhard Förster, a courageous Swiss publisher of revisionist books, died in his sleep during the night of September 22-23, 1998, in a home for the elderly in Baden, northern Switzerland. He was a co-defendant, with Jürgen Graf, in the "Holocaust denial" trial in Switzerland on July 16, 1998 — the most important legal proceeding so far on the basis of Switzerland's "Anti-Racism Law."

At the trial, the 78-year-old Förster was in such poor health that he had to be brought into the courtroom in a wheelchair. He was sentenced on July 21, 1998, to 12 months in prison for bringing out several allegedly anti-Jewish books, including two by Graf, through his *Neue Visionen* publishing firm. In addition, Förster was fined 8,000 Swiss francs ($5,500). The court also ordered him to turn over 45,000 francs earned from book sales. (See "Swiss Court Punishes Two Revisionists," July-August 1998 *Journal*, pp. 2- 12).

Förster was a retired electrical engineer who held several dozen patents. He was born in Silesia, Germany, and served briefly during the Second World War as a private in the regular German army. His father perished, along with some two million others, in the flight and genocidal expulsion of some 12-14 million ethnic Germans from central and eastern Europe, 1944-1948. Förster moved from Germany to Switzerland in 1957, and had been a Swiss citizen for many years. His wife died before him.

All books of Förster's Neue Visionen publishing firm are now distributed by, and available from, the Foundation for Free Historical Research in Flanders (VHO, Postbus 60, B-2600 Berchem 2, Belgium).

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Nasser of Egypt

Deeds and Legacy of an Arab Leader

DONALD NEFF

On July 23, 1952, the corrupt King Farouk of Egypt, an Albanian on his paternal side, was overthrown by a group of young military men calling themselves the Free Officers. The next day, one of the officers, Anwar Sadat, informed the nation by radio that for the first time in two thousand years Egypt was under the rule of Egyptians. Sadat spoke in the name of General Mohammed Neguib, the revolution's titular head. In fact, the real leader was Gamal Abdel Nasser. He was 34 at the time and would rule Egypt for the next 18 turbulent years. Because of his youth, Nasser hid his power behind the older Neguib for the first two years of the new regime. It was not until 1954 that he officially became prime minister, and not until June 23, 1956, that he assumed the presidency.[1]

The coming to power in Egypt of the energetic young warrior sent shockwaves through Britain, France and Israel. Leaders in all three countries feared him as a galvanizing ruler who had the potential to unify the shattered Arab world at the expense of the West and Israel. As Israel's David Ben-Gurion put it: "I always feared that a personality might rise such as arose among the Arab rulers in the seventh century or like [Kemal Ataturk] who rose in Turkey after its defeat in the First World War. He raised their spirits, changed their character, and turned them into a fighting nation. There was and still is a danger that Nasser is this man."[2]

Britain and France held similar concerns. The rise of a strong Arab leader could not have come at a worse time for both nations. Drained by World War II, they were both in the process of losing their vast colonial empires. Both countries had already lost their mandates in the Middle East and both were desperately trying to maintain their influence in North Africa.

Nasser, above all else, wanted Egypt rid of British troops stationed along the Suez Canal, London's passage to India. In 1954, Britain finally gave in to Nasser's demand and agreed to withdraw its 80,000 British troops since, indeed, there no longer existed any reason for their presence. India was now independent and the canal had lost its strategic importance to Britain.[3] The troops had been there since 1882, and their departure, the last foreign troops on Egyptian soil, was an enormous boost to Nasser's prestige. The historic agreement meant, in British diplomat Anthony Nutting's words: "For the first time in two and a half thousand years the Egyptian people would know what it was to be independent, and not to be ruled or occupied or told what to do by some foreign power."[4]

Israel, however, was greatly distressed by the agreement. The presence of British troops along the canal acted as a buffer against any rash action by Egypt, Israel's strongest Arab neighbor. *Israel* was so disturbed by the withdrawal that it had acted directly to ruin the talks by sending a sabotage team to Egypt to attack British and US facilities. However, the covert effort backfired when Egyptian counterintelligence agents captured the spy ring, and the embarrassing mission known as the Lavon Affair became public.[5]

The Anglo-Egyptian Suez agreement, signed in Cairo on October 19, 1954, was widely regarded as a strategic defeat for Britain. Two weeks later, on November 1, Algerian Arabs, their morale boosted by Nasser's success, began their revolt against French colonial rule, which dated back to 1830. One of the many results of the insurrection was to convince France and Britain that Egypt, and specifically Nasser, was aiding the Algerians, and therefore was a dangerous common enemy of the West.[6] France had long seen Israel as a natural ally against the Arabs, and indeed was Israel's major friend at the time. The close friendship included France secretly sending weapons to the Jewish state in violation of the arms embargo agreed to by Western nations, including the United States.[7]

Thus was born the fiasco that has ignominiously gone down in history as the Suez Crisis of 1956. Little remembered in the United States, it was a watershed event in the Middle East. It involved one of the most cynical schemes ever hatched by Britain, France and Israel — and one of the highest points of American diplomacy. It also made Nasser the most idolized Arab leader of his time.

The crisis began when the leaders of Britain,

Donald Neff is the author of several books on US-Middle East relations, including the 1995 study, *Fallen Pillars: U.S. Policy Toward Palestine and Israel Since 1945*, and his 1988 *Warriors* trilogy. This article is reprinted from the July 1996 issue of *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* (P.O. Box 53062, Washington, DC 20009).

France and Israel decided to collude secretly to get rid of Nasser. Just how to do that was never really clear. But, somehow, they wistfully hoped that by sending vast navies and armies against Egypt they would cause Nasser to be overthrown or to resign in humiliation. The plan was to pretend Israel had been hit by an Egyptian raid, and in retaliation its army would race across the Sinai Peninsula and occupy the east bank of the Suez Canal. In response, Britain and France would pretend to intervene to stop a new Egyptian-Israeli war. All the while, of course, their warships and troops would actually be attacking Egypt. It was a preposterously transparent and shameless ploy but the three nations acted on it nonetheless.

In its broader context, the Suez Crisis was a concerted attack by Europe and Israel against Islam.

A massive armada of French and British warships gathered off Egypt in late summer 1956 as the colluders went ahead amid growing international concern. No one was more concerned than President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The colluders had failed to take him into their scheme, presumably in the mistaken belief that since they were all US friends, the United States would not oppose their ill-conceived machinations.

In this they were fatally mistaken. Although facing presidential elections in November, Eisenhower publicly and privately opposed the three countries. Using every power short of military force at his command, Eisenhower compelled them to stop their naval bombardment and invasion of Egypt, and to withdraw without gaining any profit from their misadventure. Not only did Nasser not fall, but his prestige soared in the Arab world as the leader who had faced down the West and Israel.

Failure of the Suez plot had disastrous consequences for the colluders. The attack by Britain and France on Egypt drained moral authority from those two countries and spelled the end of their empires. Iraq, Britain's last major ally in the region, fell to Arab nationalists in 1958. And France finally lost Algeria in 1962. After Suez, the United States became the major Western power in the Middle East — not a position President Eisenhower had sought. As he noted in his memoirs, before the Suez war "... We felt that the British should continue to carry a major responsibility for its [Middle East] stability and security. The British were intimately familiar with the history, traditions and peoples of the Middle East; we, on the other hand, were heavily involved in Korea, Formosa, Vietnam, Iran, and in this hemisphere."[8]

Not only did Britain and France lose their position in the region, but their rash actions helped the Soviet Union cement its presence in such countries as Egypt, Iraq and Syria. Moscow was able to strut as the defender of the Arabs against the perfidious West, earning Russia considerable popular support in the Arab world.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser

Israel's leaders pronounced themselves satisfied with the gains achieved. It had secured US support for free maritime passage through the Strait of Tiran, connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aqaba and the Israeli port of Eilat, and the stationing of [United Nations] UNEF troops at Gaza, where they prevented *fedayeen* [guerilla] raids into Israel. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion thought he had profited by humiliating Nasser and by raising domestic morale and intensifying a sense of national identity among Israel's diverse Jewish population. However, on closer examination Israel had sowed the whirlwind with its aggressive actions. The government of Gamal Abdel Nasser had initially shown little interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its main interests were narrowly focused on its own demanding domestic problems. But after Israel's aggressive actions, which started well before the Suez outrage, Egypt diverted its resources to a major buildup of its armed forces.

The war also released aggressive forces within Israel that fed on dreams of conquest and expan-

sion. These dreams would be realized eleven years later when Israel launched another surprise attack against both Egypt and Syria, drawing in Jordan, which was bound to both Arab countries by military treaty. That aggression, in turn, made Israel a pariah state in the world community because of its continued occupation of Arab land, and made inevitable the 1973 war, which cost Israel unrelieved suffering and shook the country's self-confidence to the core. By then Nasser was gone. He had died of a heart attack on September 28, 1970, at the age of 52.

Although widely reviled by Israel and its supporters, Nasser, the son of a postal clerk, had been a great Arab leader. While he was a compulsive conspirator, suspicious of others and thin-skinned to criticism, he was also charismatic, a natural leader and eventually the most beloved and admired Arab of his time. Nasser was described by his friend and chronicler, Mohamed Heikal, as "always a rebel [who] remained a conservative in his personal life ... He was never interested in women or money or elaborate food. After he came to power the cynical old politicians tried to corrupt him but they failed miserably. His family life was impeccable ... The world itself had found in him one of its most controversial statesmen and the Arabs had chosen him as the symbol of their lost dignity and their unfulfilled hopes."[12]

In the judgment of diplomat Anthony Nutting, who knew Nasser and wrote a biography of him: "For all his faults, Nasser helped to give Egypt and the Arabs that sense of dignity which for him was the hallmark of independent nationhood ... Egypt and the whole Arab world would have been the poorer, in spirit as well as material progress, without the dynamic inspiration of his leadership."[13]

Notes

1. Anthony Nutting, *Nasser* (London: Constable, 1972), p. 37; Richard F. Nyrop, et al., eds., *Area Handbook for Egypt* (Washington, DC: US Govt. Printing Office, 3rd ed., 1976), p. 36.
   The best biographies of Nasser remain those of Nutting and Stephens: Anthony Nutting, *Nasser* (London: Constable, 1972), and, Robert Stephens, *Nasser: A Political Biography* (London: Allen Lane/Penguin Press, 1971).
2. Kennett Love, *Suez: The Twice-Fought War* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1969), p. 676.
3. Anthony Nutting, *Nasser* (London: Constable, 1972), pp. 69-72; Donald Neff, *Warriors at Suez: Eisenhower takes America into the Middle East* (New York: Linden Press/Simon & Schuster, 1981), pp. 17-18, 59.
4. A. Nutting, *Nasser* (London: 1972), p. 71.
5. D. Neff, *Warriors at Suez: Eisenhower takes America into the Middle East* (New York: 1981), pp. 56-58.
6. D. Neff, *Warriors at Suez* (New York: 1981), p. 161. The bitter war lasted until July 1, 1962, when Algerians voted to establish an independent Arab nation. The fighting took the lives of 17,456 French, and upward of a million Arabs. See: Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962* (New York: Viking, 1977), p. 538.
7. D. Neff, *Warriors at Suez* (1981), pp. 235, 238.
8. Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Waging Peace: 1956-61* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1965), pp. 22-23.
9. Cheryl A. Rubenberg, *Israel and the American National Interest: A Critical Examination* (Chicago: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1986), p. 84.
10. D. Neff, *Warriors at Suez* (1981), p. 439.
11. K. Love, *Suez: The Twice-Fought War* (New York: 1969), pp. 13-14.
12. Mohamed Heikal, *The Cairo Documents* (New York: Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1973), pp. 1, 20.
13. A. Nutting, *Nasser* (1972), p. 481.

'No One' Believes the 'Six *Million*'

In spite of endless repetition, millions of people around the world have never believed the figure of Six Million Jewish wartime victims. In a 1964 interview, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser said that "No one, not even the simplest man in our country, takes seriously the lie about six million murdered Jews."

(Source: Interview with the *Deutsche (Soldaten und-) National-Zeitung* [Munich], May 1, 1964, p. 3. Also, quoted in part in: Robert S. Wistrich, *Hitler's Apocalypse* [New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986], p. 188.)

Forces of the Future

"Little as we know about the events of the future, one thing is certain: the moving forces of the future will be none other than those of the past — the will of the stronger, healthy instincts, race, will to property, and power."

— Oswald Spengler, *Die Jahre der Entscheidung*.

"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder."

— George Washington

Wartime 'Master Race' Photo Deceit

A common deception technique is to falsely caption or otherwise misrepresent an authentic photograph. Shown here is the front cover of a 1943 issue of the British magazine *Parade*, which was a tool of wartime Allied anti-German propaganda. It purports to show a disheveled and malevolent-looking German soldier, above the caption "Master Race." Derek Knight, an Englishman who served during World War II with the British "Army Film and Photographic Unit," revealed later that the man in this photo was actually an uncomprehending Egyptian who had been found on a Cairo street. He was persuaded to put on German helmet and a uniform-like jacket, and to permit himself to be photographed.

(Source: K. Sojka, ed. *Bilder, die Fälschen: Dubiouse "Dokumente" zur Zeitgeschichte* [Munich: FZ-Verlag, 1999], p. 131; *D. National-Zeitung* [Munich], Oct. 13, 1995, p. 10.)

"A knowledge of the past prepares us for the crisis of the present and the challenge of the future."
— John F. Kennedy

Could *You* Survive a Nuclear Attack?

Why I Survived The A-Bomb

By Akira Kohchi (Albert Kawachi)

Until now, the *real* story of the first nuclear holocaust had not been told. Previous books on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima approached it only obliquely: technical works hailed it as a marvel of nuclear science, and books written from the military perspective honored the men who gave and carried out a difficult order. Even the eyewitness accounts, numbering some two thousand — and almost all yet to be translated from the Japanese — are overwhelmingly stories of *personal* misery. The total picture — the background, scope, and consequences of the catastrophe — has, until now, never been presented.

Why I Survived the A-Bomb tells a unique and fascinating story as seen from inside Japan 48 years ago and today. The author is eminently qualified — he lived through the experience of a nuclear attack and walked through the flaming, radioactive city of Hiroshima!

Holocaust survivor and author Albert Kawachi

Albert Kawachi, a longtime United Nations finance officer, explores the attempts at political and economic justifications for the atom-bombing as he describes the day-to-day living experiences of his family in its wake. His story is dramatic, informative, and historically revisionist.

What was it really like to survive the massive devastation, then deal with the suffering and humiliation wrought by this American doomsday weapon? Who was behind the use of the bomb in the first place? And what did it really accomplish? We need real answers to these hard questions before we speak glibly of defense and disarmament, and before we argue over trade imbalances and deficits, for what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be our tomorrow.

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Review

New Evidence on the 1941 'Barbarossa' Attack: Why Hitler Attacked Soviet Russia When He Did

Stalins Falle: Er wollte den Krieg ("Stalin's Trap: He Wanted War"), by Adolf von Thadden. Rosenheim: Kultur und Zeitgeschichte/ Archiv der Zeit, 1996. (Available from: Postfach 1180, 32352 Preussisch Oldendorf, Germany). Hardcover. 170 pages. Photos. Bibliography.

Reviewed by Daniel W. Michaels

Until his death in July 1996, Adolf von Thadden was a prominent and respected figure in German "right wing" or "nationalist" (conservative) circles.[1] In this, his final book, this prolific writer concisely and cogently explains why Hitler was compelled, for both political and military reasons, to launch his preemptive strike against the Soviet Union when and how he did. "Stalin's Trap" is also his final legacy to future generations, a sort of testament to young Germans.

For decades the prevailing and more or less official view in the United States and Europe has been that a race-crazed Adolf Hitler, without warning or provocation, betrayed a trusting Josef Stalin by launching a treacherous surprise attack against the totally unprepared Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. Von Thadden's book — which is based in large part on recently uncovered evidence from Russian archives, Stalin's own statements, and new revelations of Russian military specialists — persuasively debunks this view.

Many Soviet documents captured by the Germans during the course of the war, as well as German intelligence reports on the Soviet buildup in 1941, amply justify Hitler's decision to strike. Presented before an impartial tribunal, this evidence surely would have exonerated the German military and political leadership. Unfortunately, all of these documents were confiscated and kept by the victorious Allies.

In his lengthy December 11, 1941, speech declaring war against the United States, Hitler described in detail the Soviet menace, which was being aided and abetted by Britain and the (still officially neutral) USA. In this historic Reichstag address, the German leader said:[2]

Already in 1940 it became increasingly clear from month to month that the plans of the men in the Kremlin were aimed at the domination, and thus the destruction, of all of Europe. I have already told the nation of the build-up of Soviet Russian military power in the East during a period when Germany had only a few divisions in the provinces bordering Soviet Russia. Only a blind person could fail to see that a military build-up of unique world-historical dimensions was being carried out. And this was not in order to protect something that was being threatened, but rather only to attack that which seemed incapable of defense ...

Adolf von Thadden

When I became aware of the possibility of a threat to the east of the Reich in 1940 through [secret] reports from the British House of Commons and by observations of Soviet Russian troop movements on our frontiers, I immediately ordered the formation of many new armored, motorized and infantry divisions ...

We realized very clearly that under no circumstances could we allow the enemy the opportunity to strike first into our rear. Nevertheless, the decision in this case was a very difficult one ...

A truly impressive amount of authentic material is now available that confirms that a Soviet Russian attack was intended. We are also sure about when this attack was to take place. In view of this danger, the extent of which we are perhaps only now truly aware, I can only thank the Lord God that He enlightened me in time, and has given me the strength to do what must be done. Millions of German soldiers may thank Him for their lives, and all of Europe for

---

Daniel W. Michaels retired from the US Department of Defense after 40 years of service. He is a Columbia University graduate (Phi Beta Kappa, 1954), and a Fulbright exchange student to Germany (1957). He writes from his home in Washington, DC.

its existence.

I may say this today: If the wave of more than 20,000 tanks, hundreds of divisions, tens of thousands of artillery pieces, along with more than 10,000 airplanes, had not been kept from being set into motion against the Reich, Europe would have been lost ...

During the great Nuremberg trial of 1945-1946, former high-level Third Reich officials testified about the background to the Barbarossa attack, describing the Soviet threat in 1941, and the staggering amounts of war materiel they encountered after their forces penetrated Soviet territory. But this evidence was brusquely dismissed by the Tribunal's Allied-appointed judges.

Von Thadden cites, for example, the Nuremberg testimony of Hermann Göring:[3]

> We learned very quickly, through our close relations with Yugoslavia, the background of General Simovic's coup [in Belgrade on March 27, 1941]. Shortly afterwards it was confirmed that the information from Yugoslavia was correct, namely, that a strong Russian political influence existed, as well as extensive financial assistance for the undertaking on the part of England, of which we later found proof. It was clear that this venture was directed against the friendly policy of the previous Yugoslav government toward Germany ...
>
> The new Yugoslav government, quite obviously and beyond doubt, clearly stood in closest relationship with the enemies we had at that time, that is to say, England and, in this connection, with the enemy to be, Russia.
>
> The Simovic affair was definitely the final and decisive factor that dispelled the Führer's very last scruples about Russia's attitude, and prompted him to take preventive measures in that direction under all circumstances.

As von Thadden also relates, General Alfred Jodl, one of Hitler's closest military advisors, similarly testified before the Nuremberg Tribunal about Germany's "Barbarossa" attack:[4]

> It was undeniably a purely preventive war. What we found out later on was the certainty of enormous Russian military preparations opposite our frontier. I will dispense with details, but I can only say that although we succeeded in a tactical surprise as to the day and the hour, it was no strategic surprise. Russia was fully prepared for war.

Allied authorities at Nuremberg denied to the German defendants access to the documents that would have exonerated them.[5] Germany's military and political leaders were hanged, committed suicide, or were deported to the Soviet Union for slave labor or execution. As a result, the task of setting straight the historical record has been left to others, including scholars in Russia and the United States, as well as such honorable Germans as von Thadden.

Adolf Hitler before the Reichstag on December 11, 1941. On this historic occasion, the German leader explained his reasons for declaring war against the United States. He also spoke about the background to the June 1941 German attack against Soviet Russia. "Already in 1940," he said, "it became increasingly clear from month to month that the plans of the men in the Kremlin were aimed at the domination, and thus the destruction, of all of Europe ,.. We realized very clearly that under no circumstances could we allow the enemy the opportunity to strike first into our rear ... A truly impressive amount of authentic material is now available that confirms that a Soviet Russian attack was intended."

Further evidence cited by von Thadden about the German-Russian clash was provided by Andrei Vlassov, a prominent Soviet Russian general who had been captured by the Germans. During a conversation in 1942 with SS general Richard Hildebrandt, he was asked if Stalin had intended to attack Germany, and if so, when. As Hildebrandt later related:

> Vlassov responded by saying that the attack was planned for August-September 1941. The Russians had been preparing the attack since the beginning of the year, which took quite a while because of the poor Russian railroad network. Hitler had sized up the situation entirely correctly, and had struck directly into the Russian buildup. This, said Vlassov, is the reason for the tremendous initial German successes.

No one has done more than Viktor Suvorov (Vladimir Rezun), a one-time Soviet military intelligence officer, to show that Stalin was preparing to

General Alfred Jodl, Operations Staff Chief of the German Armed Forces High Command. Testifying before the Nuremberg Tribunal, Jodl emphasized that Germany's June 1941 attack against Soviet Russia "was undeniably a purely preventive war."

attack Germany and the West as part of a long-range project for global Sovietization, and that Hitler had no rational alternative but to counter this by launching his own attack.[6]

In "Stalin's Trap," von Thadden discusses and confirms Suvorov's analysis, while also citing the findings of other Russian military historians who, working in archives accessible only since 1990, support and elaborate on Suvorov's work. These include retired Soviet Colonel Aleksei Filipov, who wrote "The Red Army's State of War Preparedness in June 1941," an article published in 1992 in the Russian military journal, *Voyenni Vestnik*, and Valeri Danilov, another retired Soviet Colonel, who wrote "Did the General Staff of the Red Army Plan a Preventive Strike Against Germany?," which appeared first in a Russian newspaper, and later, in translation, in the respected Austrian military journal, *Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift*.

On the 46th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, the influential Moscow daily *Pravda* (May 8, 1991) told readers:

> Unrealistic [Soviet] plans of an offensive nature were drawn up before the war as a result of an overestimation of our own capabilities and an underestimation of the enemy's. In accordance with these plans we began deploying our forces on the western frontier. But the enemy beat us to it.

More recently, two prominent European historians, one German and one Austrian, have presented further evidence of Soviet preparations for an attack against Germany. The first of these is Joachim Hoffmann, who for many years was a historian with the renowned Military History Research Center in Freiburg. He lays out his evidence in *Stalins Vernichtungskrieg, 1941-1945* ("Stalin's War of Annihilation"), a work of some 300 pages that has appeared in at least three editions. The second is Heinz Magenheimer, a member of the Academy of National Defense in Vienna, and an editor of the *Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift*. His detailed book has recently appeared in English under the title *Hitler's War: German Military Strategy, 1940-1945* (London: 1998).

Von Thadden also reviews a series of articles in the German weekly *Der Spiegel* about Soviet plans, worked out by General Georgi Zhukov, to attack northern Germany and Romania in early 1941. Commenting on this, Colonel Vladimir Karpov has stated:

> Just imagine if Zhukov's plan had been accepted and implemented. At dawn one morning in May or June thousands of our aircraft and tens of thousands of our artillery pieces would have struck against densely concentrated enemy forces, whose positions were known down to the battalion level — a surprise even more inconceivable than the German attack on us.

Stalin's Speeches

Von Thadden cites and quotes at length from several speeches by Stalin, as well as from an order he issued in 1943. According to the author, these show that Stalin — like his predecessor, Lenin — always considered war to be the ultimate vehicle by which to promote world Communist revolution and usher in the global dictatorship of the proletariat.

Perhaps the most revealing of these speeches is Stalin's address to a Politburo meeting on August 19, 1939. Delivered to an intimate circle of associates, it shows his astute but utterly cynical evaluation of political forces, and reveals his cunning foresight. (To this writer's knowledge, no American

historian has yet taken public notice of this speech.)

Stalin delivered this speech just as Soviet officials were negotiating with British and French representatives about a possible military alliance with Britain and France, and as German and Soviet officials were discussing a possible non-aggression pact between their countries. Four days after this speech, German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop met with Stalin in the Kremlin to sign the German-Soviet non-aggression pact.

It is important to point out here that Stalin could have prevented war in 1939 by agreeing to support Britain and France in their "guarantee" of support to Poland, or simply by announcing that the Soviet Union would firmly oppose any violation by Germany of Polish territory. He decided instead to give Hitler a "green light" to attack Poland, fully anticipating that Britain and France would then declare war on Germany, making the localized conflict into a full-scale, Europe-wide war.

In this speech, Stalin laid out his shrewd and calculating view of the European situation:

> The question of war or peace has entered a critical phase for us. If we conclude a mutual assistance pact with France and Great Britain, Germany will back off from Poland and seek a *modus vivendi* with the Western powers. War would be avoided, but down the road events could become dangerous for the USSR. If we accept Germany's proposal and conclude a non-aggression pact with her, she will of course invade Poland, and the intervention of France and England in that would be unavoidable. Western Europe would be subjected to serious upheavals and disorder. Under those conditions, we would have a great opportunity to stay out of the conflict, and we could plan the opportune time for us to enter the war.
>
> The experience of the last 20 years has shown that in peacetime the Communist movement is never strong enough to seize power. The dictatorship of such a party will only become possible as the result of a major war.
>
> Our choice is clear. We must accept the German proposal and politely send the Anglo-French mission home. Our immediate advantage will be to take Poland to the gates of Warsaw, as well as Ukrainian Galicia ...
>
> For the realization of these plans it is essential that the war continue for a long as possible, and all forces, with which we are actively involved, should be directed toward this goal ...
>
> Let us consider a second possibility, that is, a victory by Germany ... It is obvious that Germany will be too occupied elsewhere to turn against us. In a conquered France, the French Communist Party will be very strong. The Communist revolution will break out unavoidably, and we will be able to fully exploit this situation to come to the aid of France and make it our ally. In addition, all the nations that fall under the "protection" of a victorious Germany will also become our allies. This presents for us a broad field of action in which to develop the world revolution.
>
> Comrades! It is in the interest of the USSR — the workers' homeland — that war breaks out between the Reich and the capitalist Anglo-French block. Everything should be done so that this drags out as long as possible with the goal of weakening both sides. For this reason, it is imperative that we agree to conclude the pact proposed by Germany, and then work that this war, which will one day be declared, is carried

In a secret address to his "inner circle" on August 19, 1939, Stalin said: "It is in the interest of the USSR — the workers' homeland — that war breaks out between the Reich and the capitalist Anglo-French block. Everything should be done so that this drags out as long as possible with the goal of weakening both sides." The Soviet leader's plan to overwhelm Europe in a great military assault was dashed by Hitler's preemptive "Barbarossa" strike.

out after the greatest possible passage of time...

The Soviet leader's daring calculation to use Germany as an "icebreaker" for war was, von Thadden says, "Stalin's trap."

A version of this speech has been known since 1939, but for decades it has been widely dismissed as a fraud. However, in 1994 Russian historians found an authoritative text of it in a special secret Soviet archive, and quickly published it in a prominent Russian scholarly journal, as well as in an academic publication of Novosibirsk University.[7]

Shortly after this August 1939 speech, von Thadden points out, Stalin ordered a two-year military mobilization plan, a massive project that culminated in the summer of 1941 with powerful Soviet forces poised to strike westwards against Germany and the rest of Europe.

On May 5, 1941, just seven weeks before the German attack, Stalin delivered another important speech, this one at a ceremonial banquet in the Kremlin to graduates of the Frunze Military Academy. Also attending were the members of Stalin's "inner circle," including Molotov and Beria.

During the war, von Thadden relates, the Germans reconstructed the text of this speech based on recollections of captured Soviet officers who had attended the banquet.

As von Thadden notes, a number of historians have predictably denied its authenticity, rejecting it as a product of German propaganda disinformation. However, several years ago Russian historian Lev Bezymensky found the text of a portion of the speech, which had been edited for anticipated publication, in Kremlin archives. He published this text in a 1992 issue of the scholarly journal *Osteuropa*.

In this speech, Stalin stressed that the recent peaceful policy of the Soviet state had played out its role. (With this policy, the Soviet Union had greatly extended its borders westward in 1939 and 1940, absorbing some 30 million people.) Now, Stalin bluntly announced, it was time to prepare for war against Germany, a conflict that would begin soon. He cited the tremendous buildup of Soviet military power, both in quantity and quality, during the last few years. The recent German "occupation" of Bulgaria, and the transfer of German troops to Finland, he went on, are "grounds for war against Germany."

Stalin said:

> Our war plan is ready ... We can begin the war with Germany within the next two months ... There is a peace treaty with Germany, but this is only a deception, or rather a curtain, behind which we can openly work ...
>
> The peaceful policy secured peace for our country ... Now, however, with our reorganized army, which is technologically well prepared for modern warfare, now that we are strong, we must now go from defense to attack.
>
> In fully defending our country, we are obliged to act offensively. We most move from defense to a military policy of offensive action. We must reorganize our propaganda, agitation, and our press in an offensive spirit. The Red Army is a modern army, and a modern army is an offensive army.
>
> The motto of a peaceful policy of the Soviet government is now out of date, and has been overtaken by events ... A new era in the development of the Soviet state has begun, the era of the expansion of its borders, not, as before, through a peaceful policy, but rather by force of arms. Our country has available all the necessary conditions for this.
>
> The successes of the German army are due to the fact that it has not encountered an equally strong opponent. Some Soviet commanders have falsely overestimated the successes of the German army ...
>
> Therefore, I propose a toast to the new era that has dawned in the development of our socialist fatherland. Long live the active offensive policy of the Soviet state!

In the face of all the new evidence that has become available in recent years, von Thadden contends here, obviously it will be necessary to reexamine the long-standing official interpretation of the war.

To shore up the beleaguered "establishment" view of the Hitler-Stalin clash, a group of concerned scholars met at an international conference in Moscow in 1995. Historians from Europe, Israel, the United States and Canada met with their Russian counterparts to coordinate the "official" line, in both Russia and the West, on the German-Russian clash and its origins. These historians simply ignored most of the abundant and growing body of evidence for the revisionist view of this chapter of history, including the Stalin speeches and other evidence cited by von Thadden, or the recent substantiating findings of Russian historians.

To show that even "establishment" scholars can change their view about this chapter of history, von Thadden cites French historian Stéphane Courtois.[8] In 1968 this renowned scholar was still a dedicated Maoist, and in 1981 he co-founded the scholarly journal *Communisme*. More recently, Courtois has stated:

> I work for a reevaluation of Stalin. He was the greatest criminal of this century. But at the same time he was the century's greatest politician: its most competent and most professional. He understood best of all how to utilize all means in the service of his goals. From 1917 onwards, he had a global vision, and sticking to his project, he achieved it ... Of course, one can

easily say that Hitler unleashed the war. But the evidence of Stalin's responsibility is shattering. Stalin wanted to eradicate anyone who opposed the Marxist-Leninist social order.

"Because of the resistance of German soldiers," concludes von Thadden, "the Russians and the Anglo-American 'liberators' met each other not in western Europe, but rather on the Elbe in central Germany."

Notes

1. Von Thadden wrote numerous articles and essays, and was a co-publisher of the Coburg monthly *Nation und Europe*. Other books by him include *Zwei Angreifer: Hitler and Stalin*, 1993; *Adolf Hitler*, 1991; *Die verfemte Rechte*, 1984; *Guernica: Greuelpropaganda oder Kriegsverbrechen?*
2. "Hitler's Declaration of War Against the United States," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Winter 1988-89 (Vol. 8, No. 4), pp. 389-416.
3. This portion of Göring's testimony, given on March 15, 1946, is in the IMT "blue series" (Nuremberg), vol. 9, pp. 333-334.

   On March 27, 1941, Serbian officers in Belgrade, with backing from Britain, and possibly also the United States, overthrew the pro-German Yugoslav government of prime minister Cvetkovic. The new government, headed by General Simovic, quickly concluded a pact with Moscow. The subsequent German invasion of Yugoslavia, launched on April 6, delayed the Barbarossa attack against the USSR by several weeks. See: *Germany and the Second World War* (Oxford Univ. Press: 1995), vol. 3, pp. 480, 498, 499.
4. This portion of Jodl's testimony, given on June 5, 1946, is in the IMT "blue series," vol. 15, pp. 394-395.
5. See David Irving's study, *Nuremberg: The Last Battle*, reviewed in the July-August 1998 *Journal of Historical Review*. See also, M. Weber, "The Nuremberg Trials and the Holocaust," Summer 1992 *Journal*, pp. 167-213.
6. Suvorov's first three books on World War II have been reviewed in *The Journal of Historical Review*. The first two, *Icebreaker* and "M Day," were reviewed in Nov.-Dec. 1997 *Journal* (Vol. 16, No. 6), pp. 22-34. His third book, "The Last Republic," was reviewed in the July-August 1998 *Journal* (Vol. 17, No. 4), pp. 30-37.
7. A portion of this speech is quoted in part in the Nov.-Dec. 1997 *Journal of Historical Review*, pp. 32-34, and in the July-August 1998 *Journal*, p. 31.
8. Works by Courtois include *Histoire du parti communiste français* (1995), *L'etat du monde en 1945* (1994), *Rigueur et passion* (1994), *50 ans d'une passion française*, 1991), *Qui savait quoi?* (1987), and, perhaps best known, *Le livre noir du communisme: Crimes, terreur, repression* (1997).

Intellectual Groveling

"The Occident will not perish through totalitarianism, or even through spiritual impoverishment, but rather through the servile groveling of its intellectuals for political expediency."

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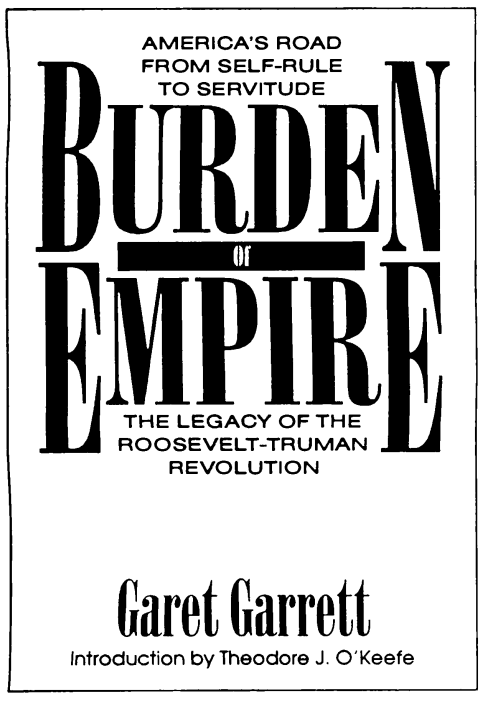

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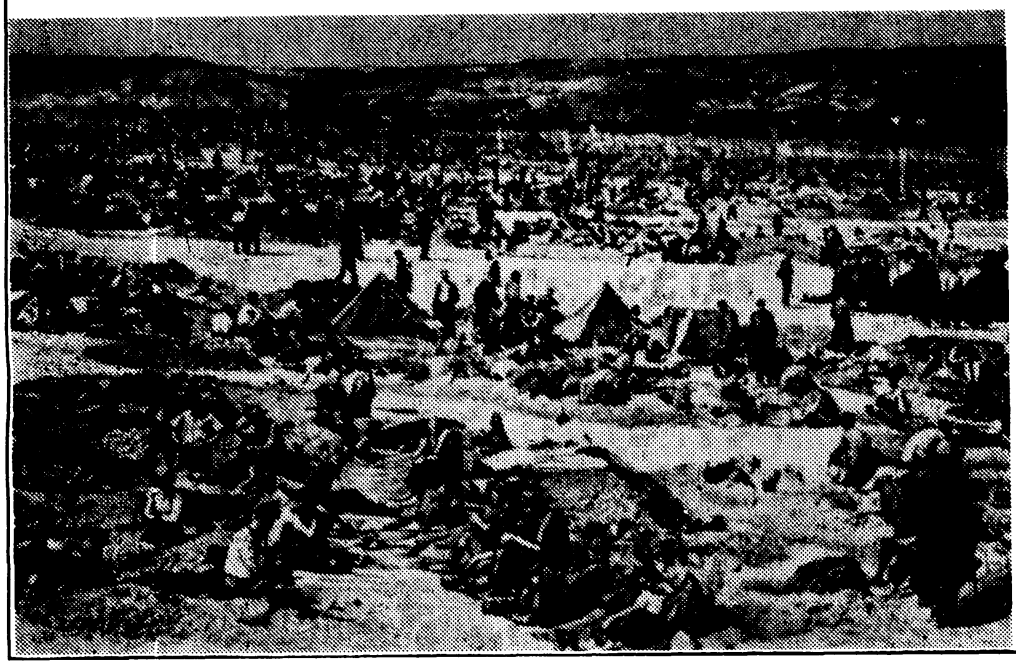
First published in 1989,*Other Losses* stirred up a media storm in North America and in Europe, earning respectful treatment from such media giants as CBS, *Time, Der Spiegel,* and the *New York Times.* Praised by Pat Buchanan and revisionist historian Alfred de Zayas, *Other Losses* is must reading for revisionists.

This timely new edition, updated with Bacque's answer to critics of the first printing, together with shocking new evidence of the crimes the Allies were committing against their German captives — even as they were preparing and staging the Nuremberg trial! — is once again available from the first American publisher to sell and stock the first edition: the Institute of Historical Review



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Letters

Perseverance

I am deeply impressed with the IHR website. What a quality job you've done. The breadth and scope of it is daunting. The writing at the site is of such great quality, and the credentials are formidable. I've spent many hours here, and I'll spend many more. Thank you for your efforts.

To carry on for so many years, especially after the 1984 arson attack, takes perseverance, guts and tenacity of will. Great work!

E. G.
[by Internet]

Dedication and Honesty

Recently and quite by accident, while "surfing" on the Internet for some totally unrelated research, I came upon the Leuchter Report on the IHR web site.

Although I had heard of those who did not believe the Holocaust actually took place, I had never heard of Leuchter's *Report* or of his subsequent ordeal. Forgive my ignorance. I usually stay up on politics, both domestic and to some extent international, as well as important issues generally.

I had believed the history of the Holocaust as presented when I was a child. However, Leuchter's Report dispels much of what I was taught and have read. What I can't understand is why the Jewish community does not support every effort to find the truth, no matter what it is. I don't see what the problem is. Maybe I'm naive or something! Then again, how about Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge victims in Cambodia. If three million is an accurate figure of his victims, I think we should call that a Holocaust.

It is very frightening to read about what Mr. Leuchter went through. I am Jewish by birth, although I became a Christian as an adult. The Jewish response to Leuchter's information, including the vilification of him, makes me ashamed that I was born Jewish. Leuchter's picture is even posted on a "watch list" of an anti-hate group. That's absolutely absurd.

It is quite clear that Leuchter carried out his investigation with no preconceived ideas, except those he had been taught regarding the Holocaust. If anything, that should have prejudiced him the other way. However, true to scientific form, he went where his research took him. That represents dedicated scientific honesty.

A. M. B., MD
[by Internet]

Find the Truth

I am a fellow student of history. I am not an anti-Semite. I just think that the victors wrote history in their way. Keep up the good work. (On some of the revisionist sites there is sometimes a sarcastic tone that I don't think is at all helpful.) I think the honest study of history will bring the truth to light. Drive on, and don't let them get you down. Let's just find the truth.

R. W.
[by Internet]

What MacDonald Misses

After reading the review of Kevin MacDonald's book, *Separation and its Discontents*, in the May-June 1998 *Journal*, I immediately ordered the book and read it very carefully. I readily agree with him that Jews routinely use deception and self-deception in competition with non-Jews, that there is "fundamental and non-resolvable friction" between Jews and non-Jews, and that Jews work to fundamentally alter Western culture to suit their interests. Unfortunately, though, MacDonald fails to lay out the full implications of all this. He is particularly off the mark about Jewish motivation.

He suggests that greater understanding of the true relationship between Jews and non-Jews will help to resolve this long-standing conflict. But this is silly, rather like asserting that the rabbit and the fox could get along if only they understood one another better.

MacDonald contends that Jews, as a group, outdo non-Jews in economic, cultural and, intellectual and political competition. He argues that anti-Semitism is caused mainly by envy and rancor over Jewish success in resource competition, and resentment over Jewish unwillingness to assimilate.

This explanation is inaccurate, or at least insufficient. Jewish success in competition with non-Jews is not, in and of itself, a major cause of anti-Semitism. Most non-Jews have a healthy sense of fair play, and are ready enough to accept being outdone, if it's achieved honestly and equitably. What non-Jews throughout history have found intolerable is Jewish domination achieved through deceit and subversion.

MacDonald writes that Jews, understandably, seek to transform society by pushing for "multi-culturalism." This is true as far as it goes, but Jews want not merely to survive, but to prevail in a society that is miscegenated, culture-less and race-less. They seek to undermine and ultimately destroy the racial and cultural cohesion of the host nation.

J. A.
Niles, Illinois

Forgiveness for Sale

It seems that the World Jewish Congress, and its allies, continue to find ever new and creative ways

to extort more and more "restitution" money from Germans. A recent news item reported: "'They [the German companies] want to buy moral forgiveness, but you don't buy moral forgiveness at bargain-basement prices,' added Edward Fagan, another of the [Jewish restitution] lawyers." Apparently "moral forgiveness" is for sale, after all.

P. G.
Nashville, Tenn.
[by Internet]

'Slow Judaizing'

A front cover feature article in the April 1998 issue of *New York* magazine asks "Is Israel Still Good for the Jews?" (One might better ask if Israel was ever good for Americans.) In this revealing article, author Craig Horowitz boasts: "Not only do Jews now think and act like Americans; Americans now think and act like Jews. There has been a slow Judaizing of America in which it's becoming increasingly difficult to see where one begins and the other ends."

When an alien racial-ethnic minority group achieves decisive power in a country, as happened in Russia after 1917, profound changes are sure to take place. Is something similar happening today in the United States? One need look no further than the White House and Capitol Hill to see the tremendous power and influence of the Jewish minority.

Charles E. Weber
Tulsa, Okla.

Lipstadt Book Not Persuasive

At a local library I recently found a copy of *Denying the Holocaust* [reviewed in the Nov.-Dec. 1993 and Sept.-Oct. 1995 *Journal* issues], a book by Deborah Lipstadt that is very critical of the IHR and its publications on the Holocaust issue. The book is not written objectively, and is even deliberately misleading. Not only is the book not persuasive, reading it actually had the effect of making me more sure of the revisionist view of this issue.

For instance, to prove her case Lipstadt writes that the German government has admitted that Germans committed all the World War II crimes of which they were accused. What she doesn't tell her readers is that the German authorities could have disputed the charges only if they had been willing to submit to further Allied punishment, and even let many more Germans perish.

A precedent for this was set at the end of World War I, when the British and French maintained the blockade of Germany to force the German government to sign the punitive Treaty of Versailles. As educated Germans know, the Allied blockade was kept in place for nine months after the end of hostilities. During that period (November 1918 to July 1919), nearly a million German civilians, mostly women and children, died of starvation. [See *The Politics of Hunger: The Allied Blockade of Germany, 1915-1919*, by C. Paul Vincent, reviewed in the Summer 1986 *Journal*.]

By starving the Germans into submission, the Allied powers were able to extort enormous reparations from Germany, as well as force acceptance, through the imposed Versailles Treaty, of German "guilt" for World War I.

In the aftermath of Germany's defeat in World War II, American authorities similarly imposed the infamous Morgenthau Plan. As Canadian historian James Bacque has shown [in *Other Losses* and *Crimes and Mercies*], millions of Germans starved to death under Allied occupation after the German surrender in May 1945.

Any "admissions" of "guilt" under such circumstances are, of course, worthless.

Lipstadt's book is written in the spirit that offense is better than defense. She accuses revisionists of behavior that she, and those like her, routinely display. *Denying the Holocaust* also clearly reflects the author's lifelong indoctrination, and was obviously written with considerable input from others.

Lipstadt viciously derides those who provide scientific evidence to show that there were no wartime homicidal gas chambers. However, she attacks only their competency and credentials, not their evidence. By her reasoning, the work of Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers should be rejected out of hand because they lacked proper credentials. Anyway, what are her qualifications as a chemist or engineer?

Lipstadt insists on calling those who reject the Holocaust extermination claims "deniers." She won't call them revisionists because, as she acknowledges, historical revisionism has a long and honorable tradition.

If this book is typical of "pro-Holocaust" literature, I can understand why Lipstadt and those like her categorically refuse to debate Holocaust skeptics. Every "denier" should read *Denying the Holocaust*. It will remove the last doubts about the validity of the revisionist view.

U. V.
Oklahoma City, Oklha.

High Priests?

It seems that Jews have become high priests of "information" in America, and that anyone who challenges the "received wisdom" risks being dismissed as anti-Semitic. For example, E. Fuller Torrey, author of *Freudian Fraud: The Malignant Effect of Freud's Theory on American Thought and Culture*, a 1992 book that debunks Freud's research and highlights his baleful influence on American culture, finds it necessary to reassure his readers that he is not anti-Semitic.

J. G.
[by Internet]

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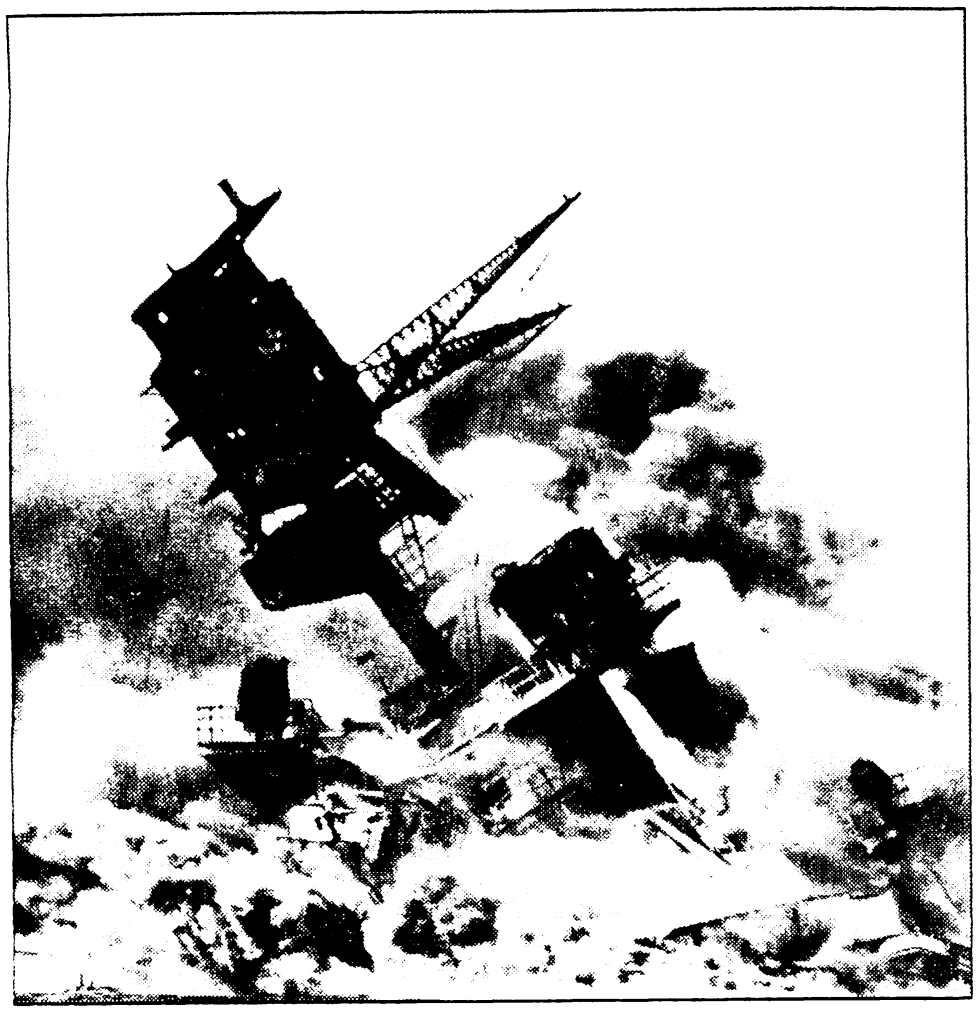

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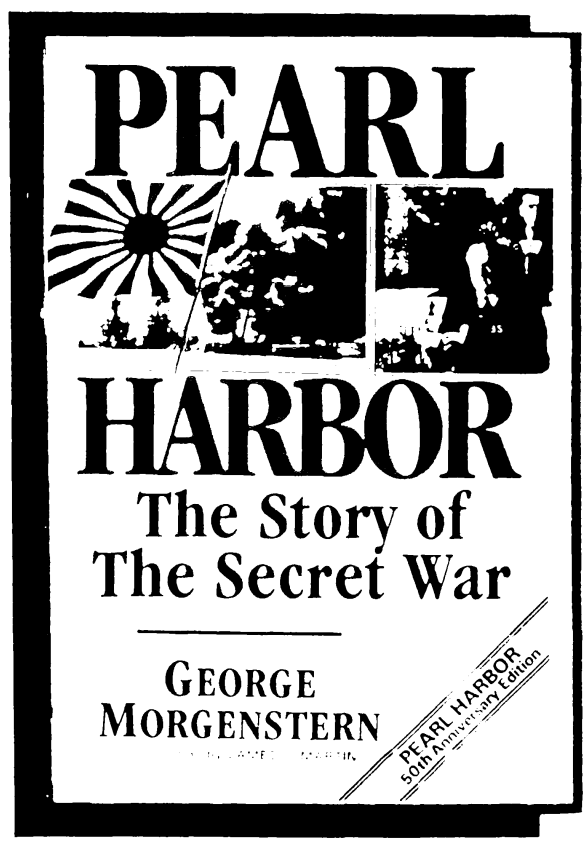

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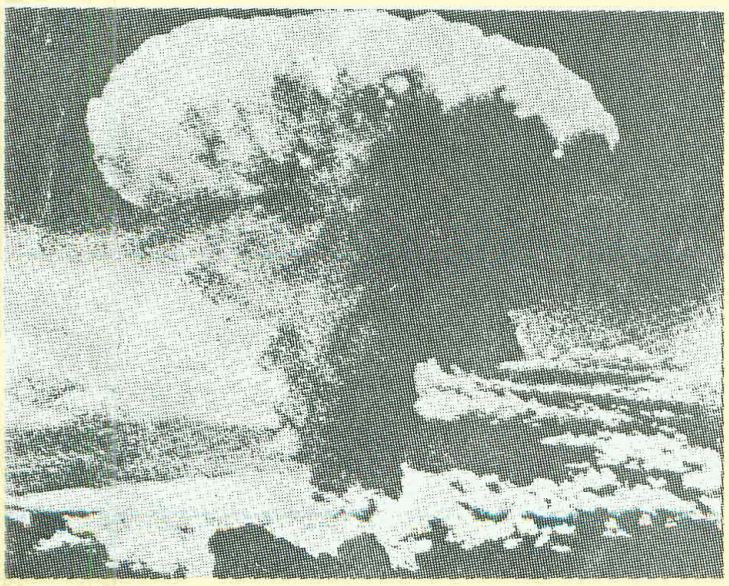

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